

Russian minister says aid cash went to western communists



Gorbachev: aide removed sensitive politburo files

THE justice minister of the Russian federation yesterday accused the Soviet Communist party of using Western credits to shore up communist-affiliated companies in Europe rather than buying much-needed grain or baby food for a hungry population. The funds were diverted, he said, "hypocritically and cynically, over a long period and through permanent channels".

Asked whether President Gorbachev knew that Western credits had been used in this way, he replied: "Yes, he knew all about it, one hundred per cent." The minister Nikolai Fedorov, also maintained that the Soviet Communist party had continued to subsidise foreign communist parties and other "legal and illegal organisations" up to August 23, the day before its dissolution by Mr Gorbachev.

Food aid credits were diverted to communist groups, the Soviet parliament heard, Mary Dejevsky reports

had advance knowledge of the coup and that one of its stalwarts, Yegor Ligachev, a conservative, was the coup leaders' favoured candidate to replace Mr Gorbachev as general secretary.

While yesterday's hearing had an anti-communist flavour, several former party officials, including Andrei Chaikovsky, a hardliner and member of the party leadership in Kaliningrad, and Valentin Kuptsov, the former first secretary of the Russian Communist party, appeared to defend their record and call for "individuals" to be called to account rather than the party or its ideology.

Challenged about the diversion of Western credits from the Soviet government, Mr Kuptsov argued that in many instances the communist-linked companies had been engaged in the production of food and consumer goods, and had run into debt because Moscow had been unable to pay.

Until 1989, he said, there had been no problem. The Soviet Union had paid its bills on time and made no difference between companies with communist connections and those without. It was only when the hard currency shortage started to bite that companies with communist links so-called "friendly companies" had been given preference.

Diary, page 14

Pact will make Europe world's richest club

By TOM WALKER IN LUXEMBOURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

EUROPEAN leaders yesterday sealed a pact creating the world's richest open market, stretching from the Arctic to the Aegean. People, goods and services will be able to move unhindered through the 19-nation union, which is being seen as a trial run for enlarging the EC.

The free trade zone, linking the EC and the European Free Trade Association, will put EFTA nations on the fast track to Community membership and could ease the path of eastern European nations seeking to join.

The European Economic Area, serving 380 million people, will come into effect at the same time as the EC's single market at the end of next year. The new partners already account for 43 per cent of global trade and besides increasing that, the agreement reached in Luxembourg yesterday should strengthen political co-operation.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president,

The European Economic Area agreement enshrines the following points:
□ Extension of the EC's 1992 internal market in goods, capital, services and persons, to the seven EFTA nations.
□ EC trade and competition laws to govern the newly enlarged market.
□ A joint decision-making machinery for the new EEA.

The EFTA nations are Austria, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

He said the pact would provide useful experience for EFTA states seeking EC membership. "He sees it as both an important trial run for those countries which want to join and a major element in the Community's spider-like strategy to organise the architecture of a Greater Europe," a spokesman said.

Franz Andriessen, the EC's commissioner for external relations, said that the former communist countries could also use the new union as a stepping stone to full membership. As an EFTA member joined the EC, so an associate EC member such as Poland could join the EEA. "This could be a means of getting eastern Europe in more quickly," Mr Andriessen said.

The Community's association accords with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, which are expected to be completed by the end of the year, will not, however, apply to their relationships with the EFTA nations.

Austria and Sweden have already applied for Community membership and the EC president, Ruud Lubbers, suggested on Monday that negotiations could start next year, a year earlier than expected.

"Now we are heading full speed to the EC," Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, said yesterday. Finland is expected to apply next year and the Swiss foreign minister, Rene Felber, said that the pact was a step towards "complete integration with the EC".

Even without the enlargement of the Community, the EEA will strengthen political co-operation in western Europe, with a 19-strong council

of ministers. Under the accord reached yesterday, the EFTA countries will take hundreds of EC laws on to their statute books. The two blocs already had a pact to allow free flow of industrial goods, but the new agreement will allow workers, capital, services and all but a few goods to move unrestricted through the market.

EFTA will also adopt EC rules on company law, consumer protection, social policy and environmental protection, and will be able to advise the EC on its single market legislation.

This depth and intricacy of the EEA talks, which ended at 3am yesterday after a final negotiating session lasting 18 hours, is reflected in the legislative leviathan that now comprises 40 protocols and 20 annexes.

The big breakthrough in the negotiations - the Dutch EC presidency had said the EEA would be dropped from the agenda if no agreement was reached - came when Austria agreed that Greece could have the 2,000 extra trans-Alpine truck permits it sought if it agreed to take more of its overall goods quota by rail.

Greek obstinacy on the transport issue had tested nerves to the full, and the absence of the Greek transport minister from the negotiations had not helped. But once that problem was overcome, the final deal came relatively smoothly.

Nick Davies, foreign editor of Mirror Group newspapers, said in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital, where he has been covering the Commonwealth heads of government meeting: "I have never worked for Mossad. I was never involved in selling

arms". He said he had been good friends with Ali Ben-Menashe who, according to the motion tabled by George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, illegally supplied weapons to Iran.

"Menashe was a journalistic contact who at first said he worked for the government. Later, when we became friends, he admitted that he worked for Israeli security. He was a good journalistic contact - we all have these sorts of contacts, but that does not mean we are spies. We are both bachelors, so we used to go out for dinner occasionally when he was in London.

"I suppose on reflection that it was naive of me to have



Out of chains: surrounded by US embassy aides and security men, the American hostage Jesse Turner is hustled into a waiting car in Damascus yesterday after his handing-over by members of Islamic Jihad; later he was flown to Wiesbaden in Germany. Steps to freedom, page 10

Journalist says he allowed Mossad agent to use home

FROM SAM KILEY IN HARARE

A SENIOR journalist accused in parliament of spying for Mossad, the Israeli secret service, and to have supplied arms to Iran in the early 1980s said yesterday that the allegations were "a complete fabrication".

He did, however, admit knowing that an Israeli named in a Commons motion was a Mossad agent and that he allowed the agent to use his home as a post restante.

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"I suppose on reflection that it was naive of me to have

allowed him to use my address, but I thought it would just be a matter of convenience. He never received any mail at my house, in any case. I always thought that these sort of affairs were conducted at the highest level of government, not from an address in Tooting," said Mr Davies, aged 52, who now lives near the Elephant and Castle area of southeast London.

Mr Galloway's motion also accuses Mr Davies of betraying Mordecai Vanunu to Mossad. Vanunu leaked details of the Israeli military nuclear programme to *The Sunday Times*. The alleged betrayal resulted in his abduction to Israel, where he was jailed.

"The *Sunday Mirror* was behind the investigation of the *Sunday Times*'s claims, and at that time I was just editor of *The Daily Mirror* - I never had anything to do with Vanunu," said Mr Davies.

Mr Davies said yesterday that he had served with the Third Battalion, the Coldstream Guards during national service but had not at any time been approached to work for any security service, Israeli or British. He has often been sent abroad as a business envoy for the Mirror Group chairman, Robert Maxwell.

"It is perfectly natural that as foreign editor of the Mirror Group I should be with Mr Maxwell occasionally, when he met government leaders," said Mr Davies.

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Vanunu case, page 3

Link adds to rift, page 8
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Waldegrave overruled on tax

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday overruled William Waldegrave, the health secretary, and made plain that tax relief on private health insurance for the elderly is not about to be scrapped.

The £60 million relief, which benefits 600,000 people to the tune of between £200 and £400 a year, will survive the next budget, informed government sources told *The Times* last night.

Mr Waldegrave embarrassed his ministerial colleagues by giving a clear hint in a television interview on Sunday that the relief would end in the budget. He has

since been told by an irritated Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he had no authority to make such a statement.

A retreat from Mr Waldegrave's remarks was signalled in the Commons yesterday afternoon by John MacGregor, the Commons leader.

Challenged by Neil Kinnock on Mr Waldegrave's words, he said: "[Mr Waldegrave] was making clear that he did not believe there should be an extension of that

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Leading article, page 15

Nigeria's free spirit wins the Booker prize

By PHILIP HOWARD, LITERARY EDITOR



Okri wins £20,000 with a tale of magic realism

BEN Okri, the Nigerian Londoner, won the Booker Prize last night by a short head from William Trevor, the veteran singer of the angry trouble and pain of Ireland. Okri's novel, *The Famished Road* (Jonathan Cape, £13.99), is a piece of West African magical realism about growing up as a spirit child in contemporary Nigeria.

Jeremy Treglown, chairman of the judges, and until this summer editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*, said after the comparatively short final judging session of 1½ hours: "At the outset of the meeting, all the books were still in the running, but in the course of the discussion, two went well ahead.

"In the end, it was a difficult decision between William Trevor and Ben Okri. But *The Famished Road* emerged as the winner because of its vigour, ambition,

and Ben Okri's mastery control of the worlds of fantasy and the everyday."

Jeremy Treglown was himself a strong supporter of Martin Amis's *Time's Arrow*, and it was one of those years when each of the judges had a different favourite, which each was reluctant to drop.

Ben Okri was born in 1959 in Minna, Nigeria. He was educated in London and Nigeria, and came back to England to the University of Essex, where he studied comparative literature.

He had already published his first novel, *Flowers and Shadows*, and while at Essex he published his second, *The Landscapes Within*. He was a broadcaster for the BBC World Service programme *Network Africa*, and was poetry editor of *West Africa* magazine. Two collections of short stories have

been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize and the Guardian Prize. A volume of Okri's poetry is being published later this year.

Okri gets £20,000, instant celebrity, and vastly increased sales.

The most successful Booker book so far has been Schindler's Ark, by Thomas Kenenally, in 1982, which had an initial print run of 15,000, but after winning the Booker sold 190,000 copies in hardback, and 467,000 in paperback.

In *The Famished Road*, Azaro is a spirit child. His mother recognises this when he is born, and is saddened by it, as spirit children are those who have failed to cut their ties with the spirit world

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The judges' story, page 14

Warders end action at top security jail

OFFICERS at Britain's largest top-security jail agreed yesterday to call off strike action after management, backed by government ministers, threatened disciplinary action (Quentin Cowdry writes).

The decision was taken after Trevor Gadd, governor of Wakefield prison, addressed 400 staff at the jail yesterday morning. He was told last week by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, that he would have the government's unqualified support if he suspended officers who refused to comply with his ultimatum to return to normal working. The move, predicted in *The Times* on Monday, marks the opening of a determined challenge to the power of the Prison Officers' Association (POA).

Mr Gadd told staff that union demands for more staff at Wakefield, the crux of a dispute which had come to be seen as a crucial confrontation

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Breakaway union, page 7

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Employers seeking senior staff are advertising tomorrow in *The Times* 12-page appointments section, circulated in Britain



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Health chiefs deny charging NHS patients

By BILL FROST

HEALTH service administrators said yesterday that hospitals were not charging NHS patients for treatment. Unions were hard pressed to produce examples of patients being charged for primary care, which Labour had alleged in parliament this week, and to which William Waldegrave, the health secretary, reacted by saying such practices were illegal.

The Institute of Health Services Management said yesterday there were no cases of illegal charging and the British Medical Association

failed to identify a confirmed case. A spokeswoman for the institute said yesterday: "As far as we know there are no cases of hospitals charging NHS patients for primary care. It is not happening."

A BMA spokeswoman said: "Obviously we have monitored what is going on, but, as yet, we have not come across charging for services."

Labour suggested earlier this week that Scarborough district health authority had begun charging patients for incontinence pads. But Rob Thompson, the authority's general manager, said yesterday: "The allegation is sim-

ply untrue. Like many authorities we once provided free pads for private-sector rest homes as well as our own. Now we can no longer afford to give them to the private sector."

Administrators were surprised at the vehemence of Mr Waldegrave's warning to hospitals against charging and said he had been fulminating against a practice that did not take place.

Sources within the health department suggested that he had been seeking to "nail another Labour lie before it gathered momentum" as the war of words over the NHS

intensified in the run-up to the general election.

During a Commons debate on the health service on Monday, Mr Waldegrave told MPs that it was illegal for hospitals to charge NHS patients for treatment. Challenged by a Labour backbencher, he said: "I do not need to consult about the law of the land. NHS patients cannot be charged, and that is the end of that."

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, chided Mr Waldegrave during the debate, saying that he would be compelled to outlaw such charges once he had left the chamber.

Yesterday John MacGregor, the leader of the House, promised an investigation into any cases where NHS patients alleged they had been charged by hospitals.

Rhodi Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, said charges allegedly imposed by an NHS hospital on one of his constituents should be among the first examples of abuse to be considered by any future government enquiry.

He said that Charles Harding, who suffers from emphysema, had paid £100 to Llandough hospital for a nebuliser, which vaporises drugs for inhalation. He had

been charged £16 every six months to have the equipment serviced. Mr Morgan said yesterday: "This is clear case of charging and the government should come clean. Mr Harding has been forced to pay to alleviate his suffering."

The Confederation of Health Service Unions and the National Union of Public Employees, who could find no cases of hospitals charging illegally, expressed concern that some patients seeking in-vitro fertilisation were paying for their treatment.

Legal charges: Some charges are legal but they are

not always clear cut. Legislation allows for prescriptions, eye tests and dental treatment to be charged for, with exemptions for children, students, the elderly and people on low incomes.

NHS patients are required to pay £3.40 for each prescription item. According to the department of health, outpatients pay for drugs on prescription but inpatients do not. Where a patient receives a mixture of in and outpatient treatment all drugs may end up being paid for on prescription.

Dental examination charges were introduced in 1989 and patients are required to pay up to 75 per cent of the cost of treatment. Since last October, under the dental contracts system, there is a maximum charge of £200 for NHS patients. Treatment is free for under-18s, people on income support, on family credit and for students. There is no set charge for an eye examination, but the government recommends £10 to £15. Under-16s and people on low incomes, including students, can be exempted from the charges.

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Checks on criminal legal aid demanded

By FRANCES GIBB

LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TOUGHER controls on the granting of criminal legal aid are likely to be urged in the wake of a National Audit Office report published today, which is expected to express concern that large amounts of money are being spent without clear authority.

Stephen Orchard, chief executive of the Legal Aid Board, responsible for the grant of civil (but not criminal) legal aid, said: "Certainly there is a feeling in the report, although it is not specifically articulated, that legal aid may be going to people who do not justify it."

Criminal legal aid should be granted to all defendants who are at risk of imprisonment, he said. "But as long as the solicitor says 'My client is at risk', then he or she gets it, without anyone actually saying 'Is the client really at risk?'"

The report will be a blow to legal aid lawyers who told the Lord Chancellor at their annual conference recently that they were struggling with overdrafts and overdue payment of fees. It will also weaken their position in negotiations between the profession and the Lord Chancellor's department, which intends to bring in a system of fixed, or standard, fees for magistrates' court work in place of hourly rates of pay.

Criminal legal aid, for which the Lord Chancellor's department has overall responsibility, is granted by magistrates' courts. It is granted to about 90 per cent of those applying for it, at an expected cost in 1990-91 of more than £330 million.

However, it is the Home Office, not the Lord Chancellor's department, which is responsible for the magistrates' courts themselves.

Mr Orchard said: "The problem that has been identified, which was confirmed by the Lord Chancellor's department's own internal auditors, is that there is inconsistency and unsatisfactory procedures applying first to the decision whether to grant legal aid; and second, in chasing up the contributions people pay."

The report will also fuel the debate on whether the magistrates' courts service should remain under Home Office control or, with the rest of the courts, under the Lord Chancellor's department. The future of the magistrates' service is being discussed by ministers, with an announcement expected soon.

Talks on opera

Exploratory talks at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service with the Royal Opera House and its orchestra were adjourned last night with Jeremy Isaacs, Covent Garden's general director, saying there was "no reason for optimism" about the dispute that has closed his theatre. The talks were held separately with representatives of the Musicians' Union and of the opera house.

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BR crash payout

A widow yesterday accepted £115,000 compensation from British Rail for the death of her husband in the Chapham rail disaster. Mrs Dalrymple, from Southampton, agreed the out-of-court settlement on the day her claim was due to be heard at the High Court in Winchester, Hampshire. Mrs Dalrymple's husband Norman, aged 50, was one of 35 people killed in the crash in December 1988.

TSW to cut jobs

Television South West, which last week lost its franchise, yesterday announced plans for substantial redundancies in its 290 staff. The number of jobs to be lost will be decided after talks with staff unions, a board statement said. TSW, which lost the franchise after ten years to Westcountry Television, has shed 120 jobs in the past two years.

Five escape

Five remand prisoners escaped yesterday after overpowering two police officers escorting them in a police van to Moorlands prison near Doncaster. Four were recaptured within an hour in open ground at South Kirby near Pontefract in West Yorkshire. The search for the fifth man, aged 19 from Bradford, continued last night.

Buying The Times overseas: Australia \$20, Belgium \$18, France 60, Germany 52, Italy 50, Japan 60, New Zealand 50, Norway 50, Portugal 50, Spain 50, Sweden 50, Switzerland 50, Taiwan 50, USA \$20.



MacGregor: promised to investigate allegations

Head of unit claims he has become political pawn

By RAY CLANCY

THE director of the infertility unit at St Bartholomew's hospital, London, who has been accused of charging national health service patients for treatment, last night claimed he was being used as a pawn in a game of political point scoring.

Richard Howell said any investigation would clear the in-vitro fertilisation unit of

acting illegally. "It is the district health authorities that are privatising the treatment, not us. We are being used as a political pawn by the Labour party against the Conservative party," he said.

The issue revolves around whether or not a health authority regards a specialised area such as in-vitro fertilisation as a priority.

Peter Tinsley, corporate planning manager of Blooms-

bury and Islington health authority, said: "This sort of treatment is not part of our block contract with St Bartholomew's. The hospital told us, quite rightly, that we would have to pay extra for the treatment but we do not have that sort of money."

He added that as there were doubts about the success of fertility treatment it was likely to remain a low priority. "There are a number of

innovative treatments appearing within the service, for example dental implants. They come under the extra contractual fund for which there is very little money."

Mr Howell believes that it is up to the health authorities to establish their priorities. "I am compelled to charge patients for IVF because we can no longer afford to provide the service free. It is a matter of charging or closing the whole

unit down," he said.

Six weeks ago he began telling patients that if their health authority was unwilling to pay £350 per monthly cycle for the treatment he would be unable to treat them. So far 40 patients have had treatment paid for and nine have had to pay themselves. Those nine had technically become private patients so the rules of the NHS have not been broken, said Mr Howell.

Unions on the way to merger

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S two main right-wing unions took a significant step yesterday to forming a new right-wing trade union block in a move which is likely to see the expelled EETPU electricians' union back inside the Trades Union Congress.

Leaders of the AEU engineering union and the EETPU, which comprise more than a million members, announced proposals to bring the two unions together. The left-led TGWU transport union and NUM mineworkers are talking about merger, while the merger of three left unions, the public employees Nupie, the local government union Nalgo and the health union Cofse is well advanced.

Labour party and TUC leaders have been uneasy about the proposed merger between the AEU and the EETPU because of the expulsion of the electricians from the TUC three years ago. Leaders of the EETPU refused to accept two TUC rulings and the union was subsequently expelled.

But the planned merger of the AEU and the EETPU now looks likely to bring the electricians back into the TUC without either accepting the original TUC rulings it refused or paying more than £1 million in back affiliation fees.

Leaders of the new merged union are likely to argue that the old expelled electricians' union no longer exists, and therefore that the TUC can neither expect it to honour the two rulings or pay the back money.

Training dispute keeps spending targets waiting

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A STRUGGLE between the Treasury and the employment department over next year's training budget is holding up an agreement on the Chancellor's annual public spending statement.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, is fighting a rearguard action against moves by David Mellor, the chief secretary, to secure cuts of £1.1 billion in job training schemes for unemployed adults and young people over the next three years.

A series of meetings between the two cabinet ministers over the last six weeks has failed to resolve the dispute and the dispute could disrupt the Treasury's timetable for announcing spending plans for the next three years.

Mr Howard, who is under intense pressure from Labour over the size of the training budget, is believed to have made some headway in staving off Treasury cuts. He has been arguing that stringent reductions will undermine morale among the training and enterprise councils dominated by employers, which have been given responsibility for delivering job training.

Whitehall sources indicated yesterday that Mr Howard was expected to have more meetings with Mr Mellor in an attempt to reach an agreement. They also repeated suggestions that the Chancellor may wait until the third week of November and the

publication of economic output figures to justify spending plans running as much as £7 billion above the planned £215 billion for next year. Government borrowing could rise to as much as £20 billion, £8 billion above the Treasury forecast for 1992-3.

John Major flew back to London last night from the Commonwealth conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, with the annual spending negotiations near the top of his domestic agenda. Downing Street sources indicated that he was anxious to secure an early date for the Treasury announcement. The sources said that they could not see any reason why the statement should not be delivered in the first two weeks of November, but they were unable to guarantee that the government would stick to its usual timetable.

Mr Mellor is expected to deliver a progress report on the public spending talks at Thursday's cabinet.

The disclosure about the struggle between Mr Howard and Mr Mellor follows the leak of a letter from the chief secretary last month in which he gave a warning that taxes or borrowing would have to rise if ministers did not curb their enthusiasm for higher spending.

The letter disclosed that Mr Mellor was countering the employment secretary's bid for an extra £135 million a year for youth training and employment training with cuts of £100 million a year. It said that ET, helping 130,000 adult jobs at a cost of £900 million a year, offered particularly poor value for money.

Overall, the letter showed that Mr Howard's bid for an extra £700 million next year had been met with a Treasury demand for cuts of £345 million.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Howard underlined his determination to win more cash for training by insisting that the government would stand by its pledges of places for unemployed school leavers and adults aged 18-24 out of work for 6-12 months.

He said that the 82 Tecs would have the resources to deliver the guarantees next year. The employment secretary was replying to Robert Leighton, the Labour chairman of the employment select committee, who said his committee had received letters from 60 Tecs claiming that they found it virtually impossible to deliver the ET and YT guarantees because of cash shortages.

Two months ago a claim against Mr Lloyd Webber for allegedly plagiarising the title song of his Phantom was withdrawn. Mr Hill has no intention of following



Leonora, centre, on the balcony at Buckingham Palace in June watching the flypast on the Queen's birthday

Girl at the palace loses her last fight

By ROBIN YOUNG

LEONORA Knatchbull, the five-year-old great-granddaughter of the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma, died in a London hospital yesterday, 14 months after becoming ill with cancer.

In June, millions of television viewers saw Leonora laughing on the balcony of Buckingham Palace as she watched the RAF flypast following the Trooping the Colour on the Queen's official birthday.

She suffered a sudden setback last week and was admitted to St Bartholomew's hospital, central

London. Leonora first became ill while holidaying with her parents, Lord Romsey and his wife Penny, in Majorca in August last year. While the Prince of Wales, who was also on holiday on the island with the Princess of Wales, comforted the family, King Juan Carlos of Spain, Leonora's godfather, arranged for the Romseys to be flown home so that Leonora could be treated at St Bartholomew's.

She was suffering from a kidney tumour and her treatment involved three operations, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. A month after

her condition was diagnosed, Leonora captivated viewers when she appeared on television in a *This Is Your Life* television programme centred on her grandfather, Lord Brabourne. A bonnet hid her hair loss.

In August, Leonora, with her brother Nicholas, aged ten, sister Alexandra, aged eight, and their parents, joined the Prince and Princess of Wales on their Mediterranean cruise.

Lord Romsey is the prince's cousin and they were at school together at Gordonstoun. The prince

was best man at Lord Romsey's wedding in 1979.

The Romseys are not strangers to tragedy. Lord Mountbatten was killed by an IRA bomb 12 years ago. Lord Romsey's younger brother was also killed in the explosion and his grandmother died shortly afterwards from her injuries.

Lord and Lady Romsey have been joint presidents of the Wessex Cancer Trust for the past 11 years and have raised millions of pounds.

Leonora's funeral service will be held later this week at Romsey Abbey, in Hampshire.

Murder confession pictures issued

DETECTIVES are investigating claims made by a 43-year-old man who is on remand at Brixton prison on charges of grievous bodily harm and attempted murder, that he murdered two women. Yesterday police issued pictures of Barbara Hunt, aged 27, and Joanne Rankin, aged 23, who are both from Brixton, south-west London.

The man confessed to the murders of the women at the weekend and said that he had cut up the bodies, put them in a number of bin liners and disposed of them in rubbish dumps across south London.



New lead: Barbara Hunt and Joanne Rankin

Sport for all plan at schools

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are planning to legislate to make it easier for schools to make their sports facilities available for community use.

Robert Atkins, the sports minister, yesterday published new guidelines to encourage schools to make their facilities more widely available. He promised action to enable governors to bring in outside help to offer a better service.

A short bill will allow governors to set up joint management committees with local clubs or community groups.

An education department report said that fewer than a quarter of schools were used by outside groups at least once a week during holidays, although the figure reached 79 per cent in term time. A joint initiative between the department and the Sports Council is attempting to increase usage.

Mr Atkins said that clubs and firms were increasingly interested in joint ventures developing recreational facilities on school premises. Changing the law would make these and less ambitious schemes easier to administer.

Labour will free BR to lease equipment

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would abolish Treasury rules which prevent British Rail leasing rolling stock needed to relieve congestion on commuter lines, John Prescott, the shadow transport spokesman, announced yesterday.

As a first step, BR would be permitted to obtain the additional carriages needed to reduce congestion on Kent commuter lines, which the government approved in June without providing the necessary £150 million.

Until the new trains arrive, BR will have to spend a third of the cost of the new trains, £50 million, maintaining the 40-year-old rolling stock. In addition, the new generation of Transmanche Supertrains, which will begin services between London, Paris and

Brussels when the Channel tunnel opens in 1993, will be forced to share the Folkestone-Waterloo line with unreliable, antiquated trains, Mr Prescott said.

Instead of buying the new trains with its own cash, BR would be able to rent them over 20 years from leasing companies, in the same way that syndicates of banks and financial institutions lease passenger aircraft to airlines.

The initiative would free BR from what are widely seen as excessively restrictive financial disciplines, and enable rail managers to proceed with a backlog of long-overdue investment projects.

The Treasury is concerned by the impact leasing would have on public sector borrowing figures.

with Sarah Brightman starring in it," Mr Hill said yesterday in a break from rehearsals for his dramatization of H G Wells's *The Invisible Man* which opens at the Theatre Royal Stratford East, tonight. "I worked on Phantom with Andrew, and then I heard from Cameron that Andrew had decided to do his own version."

Two months ago a claim against Mr Lloyd Webber for allegedly plagiarising the title song of his Phantom was withdrawn. Mr Hill has no intention of following

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Rival Phantom materialises to haunt Lloyd Webber

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

WILL the true phantom materialise? West End audiences will have a chance to decide on the most convincing manifestation of Gaston Leroux's gothic creation with a double haunting in January when the "original" *Phantom of the Opera* opens at the Shaftesbury theatre.

Ken Hill's version has a long way to go to compete with Andrew Lloyd Webber's. The Haymarket theatre production has been going for five years, has been

sold out for all 2,096 performances, is booked up to the end of next March and is playing in ten cities apart from London.

The latest production, costing £500,000 compared with the reputed £2.5 million of the current one, was born at the end of Morecambe pier in 1976. It almost became the Lloyd Webber production when opera music from the late 19th century was added.

"Andrew and Cameron Mackintosh, the producer, came to see it with the idea of it going to the West End

suit. "They said Andrew had had it in mind anyway, and I couldn't prove he hadn't so there was no point in making a fuss. I was a little bit miffed at not being asked to the opening, though."

The appearance of the other Phantom is not a realisation of pique, however. Ken Hill's show had a successful American tour and a new production was prepared two years ago which recouped its \$1 million costs within eight weeks and is still on tour.

It has been touring in Britain since March. "We're

putting it on at the Shaftesbury because it's done so well it has the right to a West End run," Mr Hill said. "We're taking a huge gamble, but it's a different show, people with strong characters played by good actors. The title is the same because it comes from the book, and I think it's very faithful to it."

The only member of the cast known so far is Peter Straker who has been playing the Phantom on the provincial tour. Ken Hill's production, written and directed by him, has been

taken directly from the original 19th century novel and uses arias from operas which would have been played at the Paris Opera in the belle époque of the 1890s.

"We may not have the technological effects I'm told he's got - I've never seen it - but ours is a more Victorian sort of production, and the Victorians were master of illusion," Mr Hill said. "I ought to be grateful for not being asked to his opening because nobody can say this is anybody's work but mine. I shall invite him to my opening, though."

Mr Atkins said that clubs and firms were increasingly interested in joint ventures developing recreational facilities on school premises. Changing the law would make these and less ambitious schemes easier to administer.

Maxwell rejects 'absurd' charge of involvement with Mossad

MP accuses Mirror journalist of spying for Israel

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR journalist on the *Daily Mirror* was accused yesterday in the House of Commons of being a spy for Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service.

MPs also claimed that Robert Maxwell, the proprietor of *Mirror Group Newspapers*, has maintained a "close relationship" with Mossad.

The allegations by George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, and Rupert Allason, Conservative MP for Torbay, drew an immediate and categorical denial from Nicholas Davies, foreign editor of the *Daily Mirror*, and from Mr Maxwell. In a state-

ment issued by the newspaper group, Mr Davies, who was in Harare covering the Commonwealth conference, said: "The allegations are a complete and total lie. I reject them in every respect."

Mr Maxwell said from New York: "The accusations against me are ludicrous, a total invention. We will be taking legal action in defence of Nick Davies and to reflect the absurd allegations against me."

The MPs made their claims against Mr Davies and Mr Maxwell in motions printed on the Commons order paper, which safeguards them against

legal action for libel. They are based on allegations made in a new book, *The Samson Option*, by Seymour Hersh, an American journalist, to be published by Faber & Faber on Sunday.

The *Mirror* group said that it was issuing writs for libel against the publishers and seeking an injunction to stop its further distribution.

The claims focus on Mr Davies's alleged role in the abduction by Mossad of Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli scientist, who is serving a long prison sentence for revealing details of Israel's clandestine nuclear weapons programme to *The Sunday Times* in 1986.

They were raised in the Commons yesterday by Mr Allason in a question to John MacGregor, the Commons leader, who was deputising for John Major on his return from the Commonwealth conference in Harare. Mr Allason pressed Mr MacGregor to ask the prime minister, as head of the security services, to set up an immediate enquiry into accusations involving Mr Davies.

The Commons leader replied: "If any questions are raised on this issue that justify an investigation by the department of trade and industry and any evidence produced, I am sure that they would do so."

Mr Galloway's motion claimed that Mr Davies had been involved in substantial arms sales of Israeli equipment to Iran and other countries over the last ten years.

It described Mr Davies as a "long-standing and highly paid Israeli intelligence asset". It alleged that "he betrayed the whereabouts in a hotel in London of Mordechai Vanunu to Mossad, whereupon Vanunu was lured out of Britain to Italy, was kidnapped, drugged and returned to Israel where he is currently serving a lengthy prison sentence in solitary confinement".

Mr Allason said in his motion that the *Daily Mirror* and its proprietor Mr Maxwell "have maintained a close relationship" with Mossad and that in 1983 Mr Davies and Ari Ben-Menashe, an Israeli citizen, set up a London company, Ora Limited, to conduct arms sales.

Mr Davies admitted to *The Times* yesterday that he knew Mr Ben-Menashe was a Mossad agent and that he had allowed him to use his home as a postal address.

The Tory MP, also known as Nigel West, the espionage



Angry response: Nicholas Davies talking to reporters in Harare yesterday

Foreign editor plays polo with the prince

By DAVID YOUNG

NICK Davies, the *Daily Mirror* foreign editor now making rather than reporting news, made his initial reputation on the newspaper covering the first waves of violence in Northern Ireland in the Seventies.

He joined the newspaper more than 30 years ago in the Midlands office in Birmingham where his family were involved in the motor trade. He has seen and survived several shake-ups at the newspaper's Holborn offices and has prospered under Robert Maxwell, its current proprietor, who takes a close interest in all foreign news developments and is often seen briefing Mr Davies on how foreign stories should be handled.

Always smartly dressed he is now virtually deskbound, although he still covers major set piece events such as the Commonwealth summit. He was in Eastern Europe during the anti-communist uprisings, but it was in the early 1980s that he spent most of his time "on the road" when he covered the Israeli raids on Lebanese refugee camps.

He is probably the only Fleet Street journalist to play polo regularly against the Prince of Wales and is a member of Ham Polo Club. He was formerly married to Janet Fielding, the actress, who appeared in the television series *Doctor Who* for three years as Tegan, the doctor's assistant.

Interview, page 1

Vanunu disclosed secret of hidden nuclear arsenal

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE revelations by Mordechai Vanunu of the scale of the Israeli nuclear programme caused a sensation when they were disclosed in *The Sunday Times* in 1986. The details told American intelligence things about which even it was ignorant.

Mr Vanunu, a disaffected Moroccan Jew, started working as a technician at the Israeli underground nuclear plant at Dimona in 1977 and spent much of the next eight years assigned to the reprocessing plant.

In 1985 he was laid off but successfully appealed for reinstatement through his powerful trade union. At that point he smuggled a camera into the plant during an overnight shift and wandered undetected for 40 minutes, shooting colour pictures. A few weeks later he was sacked for being too pro-Arab and left Israel for Australia in disgust at the treatment of the Arabs and the degree to which Israel was becoming militarised.

His revelations to the Sunday newspaper were the first real evidence that Israel has the capability to manufacture fusion or thermonuclear weapons. His evidence gave an insight into the whole Dimona operation, which was built underground to protect it from satellite observation. He also gave clues as to the number of weapons Israel was able to make. Until he broke cover with his story it had been estimated that the Israeli armed forces had between 24

and 30 nuclear warheads. His revelations helped to push the figure beyond 200.

According to Seymour Hersh's book *The Samson Option*, Israeli intelligence obtained copies of Mr Vanunu's pictures and sent them by courier to the office of Shimon Peres, the then Israeli prime minister, who ordered Mossad to remove him from London and into Israeli custody — it was thought unacceptable to try to kidnap him on British territory.

The operation involved Cindy Hanin Bentov, an attractive Mossad agent, who kept a rendezvous with Mr Vanunu in Rome. There, he has told members of his family, he was taken by taxi to an apartment where he was drugged and returned to Israel by ship to stand trial. Since his conviction and jailing Mr Vanunu has been held in solitary confinement.



Vanunu: newspaper story caused political sensation

Aids cash used for building

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH authorities have siphoned off money from their special Aids budgets into other services, according to the public spending watchdog, the National Audit Office.

Although the government allocated £450 million to meet the costs of treating Aids and HIV-positive patients, the office found that many authorities could not account for all of their budgets. In addition, some authorities were under-reporting the number of cases to the national body.

In an appendix to its report published today, the NAO discloses that North West Thames regional health authority transferred £8.5 million from its £36.9 million Aids budget in 1989/90 to its building programmes. The authority has agreed to repay the money. The regional managers also "borrowed" a further £500,000 from the Aids budget for other purposes.

The report says that Oxfordshire district health authority removed £600,000 from the

£970,000 Aids budget to cope with financial problems. In West Berkshire, the district health authority used £120,000 of its Aids fund for other services and has been asked by Oxford regional authority to repay the money.

The NAO also found examples of health authorities failing to inform the national surveillance centre of all HIV-positive cases. Haringey district health officials, the report says, estimated that half the cases may not have been reported.

The report also says that there is considerable uncertainty and concern in health authorities, boards and the voluntary sector over how the NHS reforms will affect the future funding and provision of HIV and Aids services. The NAO, headed by Sir John Bourn, concludes that a rigorous review is needed to work out the best system of NHS Aids treatment, care and prevention. To prevent the spread of the HIV

virus, health authorities should improve their knowledge of the local population at risk. They should also make sure national and local campaigns were complementary. Good practice, such as needle exchanges, should be encouraged.

The total number of cases stood at 15,837 HIV positive and 4,758 of Aids in June, bringing the HIV and Aids treatment and care centres, concentrated on London, under pressure.

● The NAO's 900 staff has saved the taxpayer more than £230 million in the past year by checking on waste and poor management within the national budget of £400 billion. Sir John said yesterday that next year his accountants will place emphasis on making sure public services provide quality of service.

National Audit Office report: HIV and Aids related health services (Stationery Office; £6.80)

National Trust wins £1½m in sponsorship

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas is to give £500,000 to the National Trust for countryside management in one of the biggest environmental sponsorship deals concluded in Britain.

The trust yesterday coupled news of the donation, to be paid over five years, with the announcement that it will designate next year as its Landscape Year, to refocus attention on its role as the most important steward of the countryside in the private sector.

"There is still some impression that the National Trust is concerned primarily with great stately homes," Angus Stirling, the director-general, said. "Yet ever since its birth in 1895, the trust's principal concern has been the protection of the countryside and landscape of this country."

The trust, Britain's largest landowner after the Forestry Commission and the Ministry

of Defence, owns and protects nearly 600,000 acres of glorious landscape, he said. Practising integrated management of this land, taking account of all features of landscape, agriculture, nature conservation and public access, cost £30 million annually, Mr Stirling said.

Next year the trust will run a series of events to raise public awareness of its landscapes, including lectures, walks and demonstrations at county and agricultural shows.

The five-year British Gas sponsorship will go towards a large number of new countryside projects; the ten to be carried out in the first year will include moorland regeneration on Kinder Scout in the Peak District, ditching to restore grazing marshes at Blakeney in Norfolk, and funding for an education officer in West Sussex.

Leading article, page 15

Gypsies criticise 'racism' as villagers protest

By CRAIG SETON

A DECLARATION of independence by a village in protest at the growth of gypsy camps near by was greeted with anger and dismay yesterday by travellers' families who have made their homes there.

Men from the camps outside Cleeve Prior, near Evesham, Hereford and Worcester, said they were so worried by the protest that they had stayed at their caravan homes when villagers gathered in a ceremony to declare their community an independent republic. "Border posts" were erected and passports issued to motorists passing through the main street, amid a carnival atmosphere with bunting and banners. Less than a mile away, men at one gypsy site said: "This is no

joke. The way gypsies are treated is the same as racism."

Yesterday's protest in Cleeve Prior was organised by a village environmental protest group. It claimed that four gypsy sites had grown up over several years on private land near the village without planning permission and that Hereford and Worcester county council was planning to erect a local authority permanent gypsy site. The villagers organised their protest because they said the new site would bring to about 100 the number of gypsies living on the edge of the village and that, they said, was too many for a community of only 400 people.

Yesterday, men from six families, all related, said they had settled on

their site over four years ago and it was now legally established as a permanent camp for their caravans. The men asked not to be named.

One said that they had been banned from the local public house and recently had been refused entry to a cinema in Evesham. He added: "This is our home. We pay our poll tax and we have built this site up ourselves better than a council can do. We have a toilet block, showers, electricity and a telephone. We want decent homes the same as everybody else."

Another said that the Gypsy Caravan Sites Act did not provide enough permanent sites for travellers nationally. "We do not want to bring our kids up on the roadside. We are not going to be treated like dogs. We have

no intention of leaving our homes here. We have caused no trouble in the village or anywhere else."

A third traveller said: "If we were coloured people, the villagers would never have dared to have this protest. It is racism." Another added: "We are British-born, British people, yet we seem to have no say in anything."

Hereford and Worcester county council said that a planning application for the site it plans outside Cleeve Prior would be considered next week. There was a perceived need for a permanent camp and once it was established, Wychavon district council, which the villagers have said has not acted against illegal camps, would then have the power to stop unauthorised gypsy sites.

Woman GP denies making sex slur

By ROBIN YOUNG

A DOCTOR being sued for slander for making accusations of sexual harassment against her former partner denied yesterday that the case was about sex.

Alannah Houston, aged 47, is being sued for slander by Malcolm Smith, aged 35. The two doctors still run their separate practices from a shared surgery at East Hunsbury, Northampton.

Of an incident when she shouted "Don't touch my body" at Dr Smith, Dr Houston told the High Court jury: "I was frightened he was going to hit me." She added: "There seems to be a lot of interest in this as a sexual problem. It is nothing to do with sex. It is to do with personal space."

"I did not accuse Dr Smith of sexual harassment. I accused him of harassing my staff and of making our lives miserable and bumping into me is harassing me."

Dr Houston told Dr Smith's counsel, Jonathan Crystal: "I do not think of Dr Smith as a sexual creature." The judge intervened: "You may not do so, but the case against you is that you chose your words with such care that you implied he was."

Dr Smith claims Dr Houston accused him of groping staff, feeling their breasts, pinching their bottoms and brushing up against them. He told Dr Houston in court: "I never bumped into you at all. I never went near you. Dr Houston, and everybody in the surgery knows that."

Giving evidence, Dr Houston said her partnership with Dr Smith had been happy and successful at first, but "cracks appeared". She decided in 1987 that the partnership was a mistake and sought a "civilised divorce", but soon afterwards, Dr Houston claimed, Dr Smith started harassing her staff and then she was herself increasingly aware of being "bumped into".

"Any of the women here who get pre-menstrual breast pain will know that someone brushing by you can cause quite a bit of distress," she said. "I think he knew it angered me."

PC Keith Bishop, one of Dr Smith's patients, said he had been in the waiting room and heard Dr Houston shout allegations that Dr Smith had been touching people's breasts. He then heard Dr Smith say: "This is disgusting. I'm going to take legal advice and I'll see you in court."

Brenda Civil, Dr Smith's receptionist, told his counsel that the doctor had never harassed her though they had sometimes worked through the night together. He was an exemplary, caring doctor.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Britain is accused of failing refugees

AMNESTY International yesterday accused the British government of evading its responsibilities to refugees.

The human rights organization criticized the increase, from £1,000 to £2,000, in the fine imposed on airlines that brought passengers into Britain without visas or passports. The government was evading its obligation to protect people fleeing from persecution, Amnesty said.

The refugee theme was continued by the Princess Royal in London yesterday when she said that "the plight of refugees, especially refugee and displaced children, will become one of the most challenging issues facing the human race in the 1990s".

She was launching a report of the Save the Children organization, of which she is president. The report said that more than 25 million children were recognized officially in their own countries as refugees or as displaced persons. The princess appealed to people to dig deep in their pockets to help child refugees. She was launching the fund's Children on the Move appeal, which is seeking £1 million by Christmas.

TV licences up

Television licence fees are to go up from £77 to £80 for colour and from £25.50 to £26.50 for black and white from next April. The 4.1 per cent increase was based on September's inflation rate. The rise last April was set at 3 per cent below the retail price index, but future changes are to be linked to inflation.

Rook tribute

A memorial service for Jean Rook, the *Daily Express* columnist who died last month aged 59, was held yesterday at St Bride's church in Fleet Street. Among those present were her son Gresham, an actor, and friends including Edward Heath, the former prime minister, and Dame Barbara Cartland, the novelist.

Warrant issued

The Irish Republic's Supreme Court issued a warrant yesterday for the arrest of Paul Magee, who failed to attend an appeal against extradition to Northern Ireland. Magee is wanted by the RUC for escaping from Belfast's Crumlin Road jail in 1981 while awaiting trial accused of murdering an SAS officer.

Freight village

British Rail yesterday named the Royal Seaford terminal, Liverpool, as Britain's eighth Channel tunnel rail freight village. The £1.5 million 20 acre freight terminal will serve manufacturers in the North-West, as well as Irish and transatlantic freight trade destined for mainland Europe.

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Europe backs code to stop sexual harassment at work

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE European Parliament yesterday approved a code on sexual harassment which it hopes will provide a clear definition of sexual intimidation and encourage genuine systems of redress in the workplace.

Suggestive remarks, offensive flirtation, pin-ups in the workplace, leering and touching are included under the rubric of sexual harassment. Those forms of behaviour are judged particularly unacceptable when linked to promotion prospects, and the code acknowledges that persistent harassment can make an employee's life unbearable.

The code emphasises that perceived vulnerability rather than physical attraction is the basis of harassment. Divorced and separated women, young women and new entrants to the labour market, women in

irregular employment, women with disabilities, lesbians and women from racial minorities are among those reckoned to be disproportionately at risk. Homosexual and young men are also said to be vulnerable to intimidation.

In London, the employment department said last night that it would give serious consideration to the code when it received a complete text. "We believe that the voluntary approach to combating sexual harassment is the answer." The department is under pressure from the Equal Opportunities Commission to make harassment a criminal offence.

Christine Crawley, Labour MEP for Birmingham East, who drafted the recommendations, said that they offered unambiguous guidelines on what kinds of behaviour were acceptable. She said that sexual harassment was a complex issue but that there were "many people who were suffering from this massive hazard".

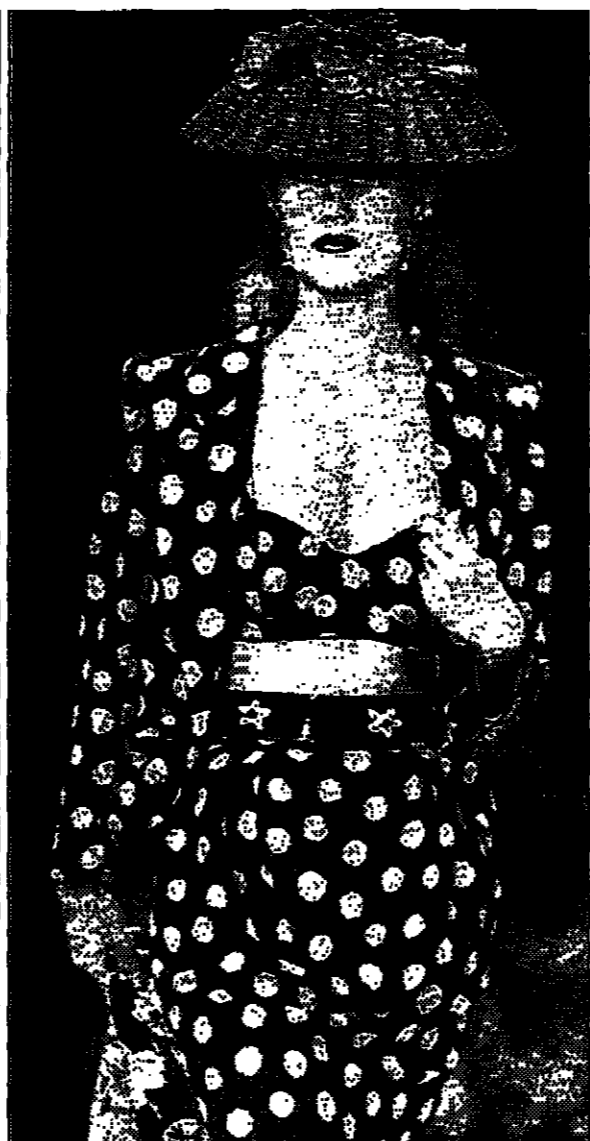
Carole Tongue, Labour MEP for London East, said that as many as one in six women had suffered unacceptable attention in the workplace and that, if sexual equality was to be a reality, this "abuse of rights" would have to be tackled.

In spite of reservations expressed by a number of members, the code was approved by 193 votes to zero, with 26

abstentions. Management and trades unions in EC member states are urged to examine their policies in the light of the guidelines and strengthen legislation accordingly. The report says that governments should establish judicial tribunals to which employees can appeal if dissatisfied by the way in which employers respond to complaints about harassment.

The wording of the code, which has no legal force, remains deliberately general: an attempt to divide offensive behaviour into four rigorously defined categories (physical conduct of a sexual nature, verbal conduct of a sexual nature, non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature, and "sex-based" conduct affecting the dignity of women and men) was thrown out by the parliament.

The amended code will be submitted to the European Commission, and launched at a conference on sexual harassment at The Hague on November 7. Member-states are required to report back to the EC in three years.



Jungle fever: Emanuel Ungaro's catwalk show in Paris yesterday included a leafy theme. Left, polka dot bra top with matching skirt and jacket, and hat topped with foliage. Right, pleated dress with green and yellow leaf hat

Church of England accused of racism

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is condemned as racist in a report published today which calls for the church to adopt a more Christian attitude to people from ethnic minorities.

Black Anglicans are leaving the church because of racism, according to the Committee on Black Anglican Concerns, which wants an audit of black church members. In about one-quarter of the church's 44 dioceses, there is no committee responsible for race issues.

One diocese has a commission for race relations and 15 have a committee of some kind. More than half have no full-time or part-time officer to address racial justice.

The report, *Seeds of Hope*, says: "Almost all non-urban dioceses seemed to assume that racism existed only in dioceses with a high proportion of black people."

Dioceses are urged to try to attract black clergy while bishops and other patrons are called on to consider black clergy for senior positions. The Rt Rev Wilfred Wood, bishop of Croydon, is the church's only black bishop.



Crawley: identifying what is acceptable behaviour

Protest by Rushdie supporters

By JOHN YOUNG

SUPPORTERS of Salman Rushdie are to stage a 24-hour gathering in Central Hall, Westminster, on November 11 to mark the 1,000th day since the author was subjected to an Islamic sentence of death after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*.

The campaign to draw attention to Mr Rushdie's continuing plight has been organised by a committee which includes Melvin Bragg, the author and broadcaster, Richard Rogers, the architect, Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2, and Bernardo Bertolucci, the film director.

In an advertisement to be published shortly, the committee says that the death sentence was pronounced on a British citizen, living in Britain, by the Iranian government, without the authority of the British parliament or a British court of law.

To millions of people the threat to the life of an innocent man is deeply offensive, it says, adding that it is important that people make their feelings known, not by violent threats but by the free, legal and democratic expression of their views.

"We can demand that our government's desire to secure lucrative overseas contracts is not allowed to take precedence over the removal of an unlawful threat to the life of a British citizen," the advertisement says. "We can remind the foreign secretary that, if threats of this kind are seen to prevail, it will not be long before the very democracy that elected him to office is also threatened."

Golf course 'safeguards landscape'

By CRAIG SETON

THE creation of golf courses could help to safeguard historic landscapes, an enquiry into plans for a leisure development at Warwick Castle Park was told yesterday.

The first day of the public enquiry at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, heard that David Newling Ward, owner of the 690-acre park, believed that his plans would restore the parkland next to Warwick Castle, secure its financial future and give public access to the historic landscape.

The plans, including a country club, hotel and two 18-hole golf courses on land part-designed by Capability Brown in the 18th century, are opposed by conservation and amenity groups, including the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Garden History Society.

Robert Carnwath, QC, for Mr Newling Ward, said that English Heritage acknowledged the contribution golf courses could make to the future of such parks. He said the Warwick Castle Park was at its finest in the 19th century, but it had suffered progressive decline and needed extensive work to its woodland and buildings. He added: "Without some proposal such as we present we do not know how the future of the park will be restored."

A written submission on behalf of Warwick Castle, a grade one listed building, said its owners supported in principle Mr Newling Ward's proposals. It added: "However, there are key details of design which need further exploration."

Surgeon blunts the lager lout's edge

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A SURGEON wants public houses and clubs to be licensed only if they agree to use glasses made from safer materials. He is calling for the traditional lager glass, the favoured weapon in pub and club brawls, to be made of a special glass that shatters into tiny harmless pebbles instead of sharp spikes and slivers.

In films, characters resolve disputes by flinging tables and crashing chairs on an enemy's head. In the pubs and clubs of Britain, however, a smashed one-pint lager glass has become the favoured weapon. Studies show that on a typical Friday night at a hospital's casualty department such glasses will have been used in 15 per cent of assaults.

Jonathan Shepherd, professor of oral and maxillo-facial surgery at the university of Wales's college of medicine, Cardiff, says

that there is a simple, cost-effective solution. He has been testing materials that might make lager glasses harmless while keeping their easy-to-store and easy-to-wash shape. He has found a commercially available toughened glass which, when smashed, breaks into hundreds of tiny pebbles rather like a modern car windscreen. He said that the cost of the special glass was no more than that of the traditional lager glass.

Professor Shepherd, whose findings are expected to be published in the *British Medical Journal* next month, is arguing that magistrates should license only pubs or clubs that agree to use glasses made from safe materials. "Some bar people have suggested that the pebbles might get into nearby food but this is a small price to pay," Professor Shepherd said.

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Business confidence rising, Howard tells angry Labour

By PETER MULLIGAN

MICHAEL Howard, employment secretary, insisted yesterday that the economy is heading out of recession as he faced fierce attacks from Labour on job losses.

A survey from the British Chambers of Commerce, to be published tomorrow, showed a "very substantial increase in business confidence on the part of those who responded", he said.

During a rowdy question time, Mr Howard told the Commons: "We are coming out of recession, but it is sadly the case that unemployment is one of the last things to turn." The rise in the jobless total from August to September of 35,700, to 2,461,000, was the smallest for nearly a year and was further evidence that the rate of increase was slowing.

He sought to counter criticism from Labour MPs by accusing them of obsessively seeking out bad news in the documents they cited and ignoring the good news.

Tony Blair, shadow em-

ployment secretary, said that the Chambers of Commerce survey showed that jobs were continuing to be shed at an alarming rate in both services and manufacturing. He accused the government of failing to meet its guarantee of a training place for the unemployed on the youth training schemes, a charge supported by Ronald Leighton, the Labour chairman of the employment select committee.

Mr Leighton said that 60 of the 82 training and enterprise councils (Tecs) had written to him, saying that they were finding it virtually impossible to implement the guarantee because of lack of cash.

Mr Howard replied: "We are committed to these guarantees and they will continue to be met by the Tecs."

Among backbenchers angry about job losses was Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, who described how his constituent, John Smith, an unemployed salesman with 20

years' experience, had made 1,200 job applications in the past 19 months. Was his plight not testimony to the bankruptcy of the government's policy in general and "Howard's way" in particular?

Mr Howard said: "Everyone must have sympathy with his constituent and those who find themselves in similar circumstances". But people should ask themselves whether they would be better off under Labour who would make it easier to strike, add to the burdens of employers by backing the European social charter and destroy countless jobs with a minimum wage.

Scepticism about an upturn in the economy was voiced by John McAllister, Labour MP for Dundee East: "Who are we to believe: hard-pressed companies faced with a savage recession forcing workers on to the dole or ministers, Westminster-based, high on magic mushrooms, who claim there is economic growth everywhere?"



Howard: "Labour MPs obsessed with bad news"

Peers protest at TV showing of Christ film

By JOHN WINDER

PEERS protested yesterday that the projected broadcast of *The Last Temptation of Christ* by the BBC was offensive to Christians. A Home Office minister said, however, that what the BBC broadcast was a matter for the governors.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, former Lord Chancellor, said that the BBC might be endangering its future by acting in such an irresponsible way.

The film, made by Martin Scorsese, was released in 1988. Lord Orr-Ewing said that he had seen a summary of the film which the BBC planned to show on BBC2. "It is offensive not only because it ridicules Jesus but [also because it] shows him to be weak and cynical. Does the minister recall the reaction when Salman Rushdie published a book that was badly received, understandably, by the Muslims?"

"It would be wise if the home secretary, who is obligated by the charter of the BBC, got into touch with the churches and suggested that this is deeply offensive to the 70 per cent of people of this country who look on themselves as Christians."

Earl Ferrers, Home Office minister, said: "I can understand that he might find the film offensive, but there are, of course, different views about what is and is not offensive. Programmes are not for the government."

Lord Hailsham said that the BBC imposed a tax, in effect, on everyone. It was outrageous that they should show such disregard for people who had paid licence fees.

Earl Ferrers replied that licence holders did not have to switch on their sets. "It is not, nor should it be, the business or duty of government to determine what is suitable for the BBC to publish."

Lord Morris of Castle Morris, for the Opposition, said that last time the film was shown it was referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions but the complaint was not upheld, so the issue of public decency was already determined.

Lord Tonybandy, former Speaker of the Commons and a Methodist, said that the BBC had mighty influence and the matter could not be lightly brushed aside as it had been by Earl Ferrers. "No one would tolerate abuse of the prophet Muhammad. Why should we tolerate ridicule of Our Lord?"

Earl Ferrers agreed that it was a very sensitive matter, but if the suggestion were adopted it would mean taking power to scrutinise programmes. That would mean, not just curtailing the freedom of the BBC, but also deciding what should be broadcast.

Lord Glenamara (Lab) said that he had seen the film and it was a beautiful and sensitively made film that portrayed the crucifixion much better than any previous film.

The BBC said later that no date had been set for the late-night showing of the film.



Minister explains car tax

Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, has expanded on the phasing in arrangements for the taxation of profits from mileage allowance made by volunteer hospital car drivers.

Responding to concern that such drivers were to be taxed, Mr Maude said in a written reply that only a quarter of the profit element would be taxed in the period from October 6 to April 5, 1992 and for the following financial year. Half the profit would be taxed in 1993-4 and 1994-5. Tax will not be payable on the full amount of the profit until 1995-6.

Stay sober

A television campaign against drinking and driving, supported by vigorous enforcement, will be conducted over Christmas, Christopher Chope, roads and traffic minister, said in a written reply.

Snow plans

Transport department officials are to discuss with British Rail severe weather arrangements for this winter, Roger Freeman, public transport minister, said in a written reply.

Tax check

About 3,200 Inland Revenue staff, 5.2 per cent of the total, are employed on detecting and investigating tax evasion, Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, said.

Tunnel trains

British Rail plans to run 75 passenger and freight trains each way every day through the Channel tunnel, Roger Freeman, public transport minister, said in a written reply.

Tories turn the big guns on Lib Dems

By KERRY GILL

IF NOBODY had guessed already who the Conservatives feared most in the forthcoming Kincardine and Deeside by-election, Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, confirmed yesterday that it was the Liberal Democrats.

During a visit to the north-east Scotland constituency, where the Tories are defending a 2,063 majority after the death of Alick Buchanan-Smith, Mr Patten drove home his attack against the Liberal Democrats, accusing them of dishonest policies and claiming that they jumped on every political bandwagon.

Extra taxation proposed by the Liberal Democrats would cause economic mayhem in Scotland, he said. They would cut defence spending, increase petrol prices and therefore

cripple this largely rural area. "If they were honest", Mr Patten said, "the Liberal Democrats would adopt the slogan 'Vote for us - we'll double the price of petrol and halve the armed forces'. But, of course, honesty was never their hallmark."

The Conservatives, pinning their hopes of success on Marcus Humphrey, the old Etonian laird, who has espoused consensus Toryism in an attempt to take on the leftist mantle of Mr Buchanan-Smith, are clearly also worried by the issue of the future of the Gordon Highlands. The regiment, which has much local support, is expected to be amalgamated with the Queen's Own Highlanders as part of the government's defence review.

Poll boosters are on the way

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

How do you get that new development, the relocation into your area of a government department, perhaps?

One solution is to have your MP die: the result - a by-election. So watch out for a spate of ministerial announcements in the coming weeks, spreading largesse to the electors of northeast Scotland, Cleveland and Yorkshire.

The by-election booster is a well catalogued phenomenon affecting governments of all complexions. It usually takes the form of an injection of public money into a constituency during a by-election campaign.

With the three campaigns in Kincardine and Deeside, Langbaugh and Hemsworth less than a week old, signs of a serious outbreak are emerging. There was, for example, the sudden enthusiasm displayed by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, last week about moving the 80-strong petroleum engineering directorate from London to Aberdeen in the Kincardine and Deeside constituency.

Ministers also announced the phasing out of drift-net fishing, benefiting

the constituency's salmon river owners to the detriment of the offshore fishermen. That has been attacked by Labour as a political fix. To those can be added the delay, in the face of strong local opposition, in deciding whether to allow Forresterhill hospital to opt out of local health authority control.

The evidence from past campaigns indicates that the voters are rarely tempted to change their minds by such electoral carrots. Michael Heseltine, when defence secretary, underwent a sudden change of heart about closing a Welsh military training camp in the Brecon and Radnor constituency during the June 1985 by-election campaign. But the Tories still lost the seat to the Liberals. The Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, said at the time: "The moral is: if you want to save jobs under this government, get a by-election."

Again, during the Mid-Staffs campaign last year, Cecil Parkinson, announced the £18 million electrification of the local railway line. It did not prevent the loss of the seat to Labour's Sylvia Heal.

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Hand on heart, it isn't cheddar. Whatever your taste buds may tell you.

Home Office seeks to weaken stranglehold of jail officers' 'Luddite' association

Breakaway prison union likely to win recognition

By QUENTIN COWDRY AND TONY DAWE

THE Home Office is expected shortly to recognise a breakaway prison officers' union as part of a campaign to reduce the power of the TUC-affiliated Prison Officers' Association.

An announcement, expected in the next few weeks, will give the Prison Service Union equal rights to negotiate pay and conditions in prisons and to join consultations on reforms.

Founded in 1989, the union claims 1,500 members, but ministers believe its membership could expand rapidly if it were officially recognised. The union opposes strikes which worsen conditions for inmates and is prepared to accept a measure of privatisation within the jail network.

The department has sent letters to the dozen or so unions and staff groups with members working in jails seeking their reaction to the possible granting of negotiating rights to the union. David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association (POA), said yesterday that his organisation would do its best to kill off the rival union which he said had fewer than 1,000 members. "Many of the members they do have are non-uniformed staff, some of them just cleaners," he said. "There is no way we are going to sit down round a table with them."

The bitterness stems from the formation of the union by former POA officials after an internal dispute. The union belongs to the Federation of Professional Associations, the white-collar branch of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, which is outside the TUC.

Its basic policy is "fewer prisoners not more staff". Peter Rushworth, its general

secretary, said: "We cannot realistically expect the government to spend more than the billion pounds it does already on the prison service. The obvious answer is to reduce the number of prisoners by increasing re-education where justified. That would help correct staffing levels and prisoners would be able to get out of their cells more often to undertake more activities including education classes."

Mr Rushworth accused the association's leaders of using the lack of resources in prisons as "an excuse to back its own reactionaries who are opposed to change". His union welcomes reforms, resisted by some association branches, such as allowing low-risk male prisoners to wear their own clothes and reducing censorship.

The association, which represents about 95 per cent of the service's 25,000 uniformed staff, is seen by ministers as a Luddite force. It is also under threat as a result of the government's commitment to contract out the running of some jails to the private sector. To date only one jail — the Wolds remand centre on Humber-side — has been earmarked for the private sector, but the danger to the association was highlighted last week by the disclosure in *The Times* that the GMB, Britain's second largest union, is likely to represent staff at the prison.

Aware that ministers are keen to "privatise" other remand centres and low security jails, the association has written to John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, protesting about its attempts to negotiate a single-union agreement at the Wolds. The GMB is supposed to be part of a TUC-backed campaign fighting the Wolds project.



Unbowed: Brian Caton, vice chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, outside Wakefield prison yesterday after his members had agreed to call off industrial action over staffing levels. The prison governor, Trevor Gadd, gave a warning of disciplinary action. Dispute ends, page 1

Warders opposed to use of name tags

By TONY DAWE

PLANS for the compulsory wearing of name badges by prison staff is expected to cause disruption in British jails in the coming weeks.

The Home Office is determined to press ahead with the introduction of the badges in spite of opposition from the Prison Officers' Association (POA). The question of badges is expected to increase the number of disputes from the present 82 in 45 prisons. They mostly concern staffing levels.

The greatest opposition will come from the more reactionary local branches of the association, which argue that the name tags are un-

necessary and inappropriate. The wearing of badges showing name and rank was recommended earlier this year by Lord Justice Woolf's enquiry into prison disturbances after the Strangeways riot. He also called for uniforms to be less militaristic and for peaked caps to be phased out.

The Home Office is committed to introducing the badges by December. An official said yesterday: "Whenever we try to implement reforms, we meet resistance from the POA. But we will not give in on this one for the prime minister is personally committed to it."

Sick leave fiddle alleged

FIGURES showing that prison officers take nearly three weeks a year on average for sick leave are being cited by MPs campaigning for a shake-up of the prison service (Tony Dawe writes).

The Home Office statistics disclose that prison staff take an average of 13.87 working days' sick leave, twice the national figure and two days more than the average for the police. The fire brigade is believed to have the highest figure among the public services, though those statistics have yet to be published.

The prison department is conducting an enquiry at the 23 jails with the poorest records, which include some in south Wales where staff take an average five weeks off for sick leave. The worst

case uncovered so far concerns an officer who was away for 18 months before any action was taken.

Sir John Wheeler, chairman of the Commons home affairs select committee, said that the figures suggested fiddling on a large scale. "If a prison officer doesn't want to do an unusual hours shift, he goes off sick and nobody

does anything about it. This emphasises the lack of management control over the deployment and use of prison officers," he said.

Some former prisoners, including Brian Stevens, now a writer, said that some warders deliberately provoked prisoners into punching them or throwing food over them so that they could take days off.

The Prison Officers' Association, which represents 95 per cent of prison staff, rejected the criticisms and said the figures reflected the steady increase in assaults on officers over the past 15 years. A spokesman added that surveys had shown the job of prison officer to be the fourth most stressful in the country.

SICK LEAVE	
Average number of days (per year)	
Firemen	15*
Prison Officers	13.87
Police	11.6
Manual Workers	11
Non-Manual workers	6
NATIONAL AVERAGE	7

*Estimated Source: Home Office and OPCS

Cloud over terminal on eve of opening

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE Duchess of York will today open the new £60 million Eurohub air terminal at Birmingham airport, which is the subject of one of the most complex and bitter disputes in British aviation.

British Airways put up 21 per cent of the cost of building the terminal on the understanding that it, and Birmingham European, in which it has a 40 per cent stake, would be its sole users. BA undertook to operate scheduled services from the new terminal for at least ten years.

As the terminal was being built, however, it became clear that BA was being dragged down by its regional operations because of their high operating and labour costs, and the airline was forced to think again. One option was the creation of a new airline to operate short-haul services from Birmingham, Glasgow and Manchester, where operations are thought to be costing BA far more than the £34 million lost by the airline's European business as a whole.

Such a move, rejected by the unions, would be fiercely contested by such rival airlines as British Midland, which would then demand a chance to bid for the routes.

Part of BA's problem is that crew flying from Birmingham are paid the same as those at Heathrow, even though they are flying smaller jets generating less revenue. The airline wants to reduce their wages, preferably by their agreeing new terms with the proposed new airline, which would be jointly owned by BA, Birmingham European, the Danish travel organisation Maersk and TPL, parent company of Brymon.

So far this has been rejected by the unions, whose 900 members in the regions earn up to 25 per cent more than their opposite numbers in smaller airlines, and BA has set a deadline for the talks to succeed by the end of the year.

Bob Taylor, managing director of Birmingham international airport and Eurohub chairman, said yesterday that if BA did change its structure he would not hold it to its ten-year guarantee, even though it was legally binding.

Beating captured on video

A toll bridge supervisor used his traffic control camera to record a man being beaten unconscious, Plymouth crown court was told yesterday.

A ten-minute video of the unprovoked attack, on the Tamar Bridge, the Plymouth Link between Devon and Cornwall, was watched by Recorder David Roberts before he sentenced three men who admitted grievous bodily harm.

Michael Mitchell, aged 21, of Plymouth, was jailed for two months, Darren Jones, of Saltash, Cornwall, was sentenced to six months in a young offenders' institution, and sentence was deferred on a 25-year-old from Plymouth, who cannot be named as he is awaiting trial for other alleged offences.

Joyrider killed

A joyrider aged 18 was killed and one of his six passengers, aged 19, was critically ill in hospital after their stolen Ford Cortina crashed into a garden wall in Oldham, Greater Manchester. They were being followed by an unmarked police van.

Snails blessed

Two snails were among 80 different animals blessed at a fund-raising service in aid of the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals at Talland church, east Cornwall.

Chapel error

Severn Trent Water is to rebuild a 17th century chapel at Hognaston, Derbyshire, and use it as a ranger's hut. The company demolished it without permission, believing it had no foundations.

Gun tragedy

A man died when a gun mounted on a punt backfired during a duck shooting trip on St Cuthbert's Island, off the Arran coast.

Fostering award

Vera Wood, aged 77, was presented with the British Empire Medal for fostering more than 500 children in 30 years, in a ceremony at Trowbridge, Wiltshire. "I can't think of a better way to have spent my life," she said.

Horse export ban to remain

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ANIMAL welfare groups yesterday welcomed the decision of European Community agriculture ministers to allow Britain to maintain its ban on the export of horses to the Continent for slaughter. They are worried, however, that the ban might have to be relaxed in the future.

The government now prohibits the export of horses that are below a minimum value. That effectively restricts the trade to racing thoroughbreds and animals used for breeding, and prevents the shipment of

elderly animals for consumption on the Continent.

The EC has argued that the minimum values system is a restraint of trade and must end as part of its standardisation of animal transport when the single market starts after 1992. EC agriculture ministers agreed on Monday to allow the minimum values scheme to continue after 1992 if no EC-wide rules had been adopted by then.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, said yesterday that the rest of the EC

had now recognised that horses were a special case because of the stress they suffered in transport. "We are going to have at some stage a special arrangement on the transport of horses which will improve things in the rest of Europe as well. But in the meantime Britain's very tough legislation can continue."

The International League for the Protection of Horses said: "We must not lose sight of the fact that this is a temporary reprieve and not a permanent solution."

Navy offers holiday on ice

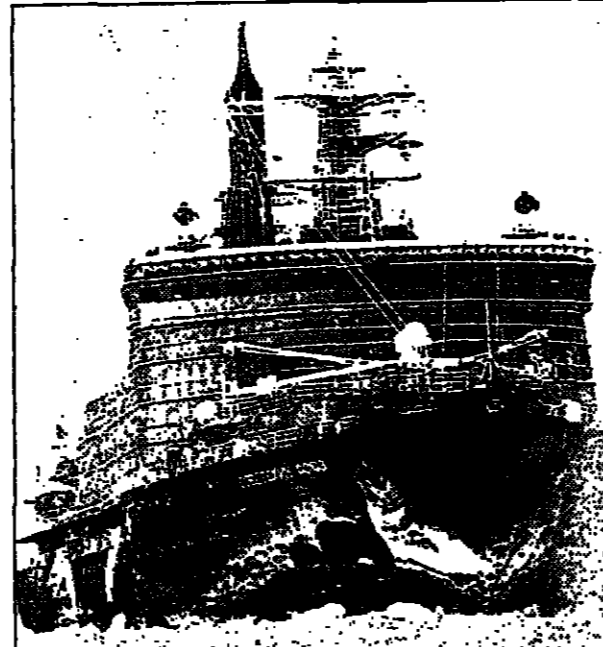
Forget sun and sand, a 20-day trip through the icy northeast passage is the latest holiday to fire the imagination, Harvey Elliott writes

AS BRITAIN'S leading tour operators battle with each other for the waler-thin profits of the mass tourist market, the Soviet military has recognised that some holidaymakers are prepared to pay up to £17,500 for something really out of the ordinary.

Already, 18 people have booked cabins on the nuclear-powered ice-breaker the Sovetskiy Soyuz, which next summer will make the first West to East passenger voyage from Murmansk to Alaska through the northeast passage. Up to 100 holidaymakers will be on board the 21,000-tonne ship, which until last year kept open the icebound sea for the Soviet Union's powerful Northern Fleet.

The ship's military equipment has been removed and replaced with a heated indoor swimming pool, saunas and a gymnasium, which naval chiefs hope will help to persuade Western tourists to part with £11,950 for a standard cabin on the 20-day trip, or £17,500 for a suite.

The navy hopes that the money will enable it to continue the scientific work and wildlife studies carried out when the ship was not



Breaking new ground: the refitted Sovetskiy Soyuz

helping to keep up the military pressure on America and northern Europe.

Andrew Cochrane, of Noble Caledonia, the British offshoot of the Swedish-US company that is organising the trips, said: "We were actually looking for a ship which we could charter for the South Atlantic. The scientists used their military connections to set up the deal and the Soviet ministry agreed because they clearly needed the funds."

The Sovetskiy Soyuz was launched in October 1986 and became operational in

1989, just as the tensions which had made it necessary were crumbling. It was sent for an expensive refit and now the ship's civilian passengers are promised a high level of comfort as they plough through the 5ft-thick ice at about ten knots.

The passage around the North pole was found in 1879 and has been kept open mainly by Russian ice-breakers. Passengers will be able to see polar bears, walrus and plant life that live on the ice floes along the passageway. It certainly beats Benidorm.

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FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

It was time for law and order to be enforced, Mitterrand said, and those responsible for doing so should not shirk their duty.

By PHILIP JACOBSON

A report released by the present government last month said that the meeting had agreed to continue the sale of non-heated products; the main priority appears to have been to dispose of as much as possible before new regulations came into force restricting financial reimbursement by the health authorities to heated products.

Tory urge

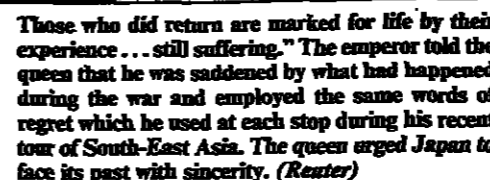
From GEORGE BROCK IN STRASBOURG

Sir Christopher Proul, who heads the 32 British Conservatives in the parliament, said that he was trying to persuade the government to allow the Strasbourg assembly tougher powers over the community's executive committee, and powers to veto EC laws which have been decided by majority votes among national governments. A majority of the community's governments, which are led by Germany and Italy, want the parliament's

Sir Christopher said that he was trying to draw up a compromise between British policy and the European parliament's demand that it have powers of EC lawmaking equal to the councils of national government ministers.

Sir Christopher has suggested that British ministers allow the parliament a right to veto any decision made by majority vote of national ministers. If governments and parliaments can be overruled in majority votes, why not give the European parliament a vote on the decision? "What I am trying to do is to design something which is absolutely consistent with the line that the government has been taking but which gives the parliament some clout," he said.

Leading article, page 15



idea of free trade throughout the community and made Western Europe the envy of its

By ROGER BOXER, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

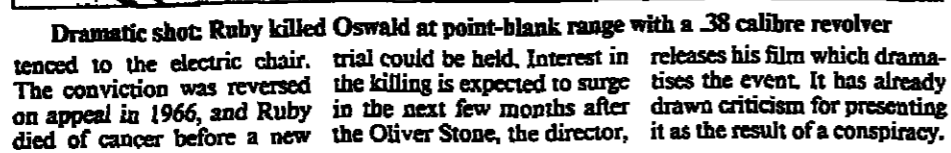
Croatia's largest industrial concern is Ina, the oil and chemicals company, which has 650 filling stations in Yugoslavia. At the end of last

Most large Western tourist companies have placed their bookings for 1992 — and they are still doing so — on a no-guarantee basis, declared a spin-off earnings generated by tourism keep most of western Croatia alive, but unemployment, now at 13 per cent, is likely to rise fast.

The report estimates that it costs more than \$1 million a day to take care of the 250,000 refugees and displaced persons in battle zones. Croatia is, as a result, virtually bankrupt. Foreign exchange reserves have dwindled and the budget is hopelessly out of balance, despite price and tax increases. Zagreb is searching for loans to cover its expenses, but it has had little success beyond Germany and Austria.

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN NEW YORK

Oswald was killed in the basement of Dallas city jail on November 24, 1963, two days after Kennedy was assassinated. Ruby was convicted of murder in 1964 and was sen-



Heiler had been running for the White House, he would have had to bite back his remark last week to the modest-income conservative Republican, Newt Gingrich, who is one of the congressmen recently exposed for overdrawing on his account at the House bank. "When I was asked to attend this event, I asked myself how big a cheque I would have to write to get out of it," Mr Rockefeller said. "I can assure you that my cheques don't bounce."

"No offence, Newt," Mr Rockefeller added. There followed an awkward pause while Mr Gingrich did take offence. So did quite a few others who like to think of Washington as a city where a man parades his power rather than his purse. But for non-billionaire candidates, it has been tough getting recession-battered developers to part with cash for television advertising.



How relentless misery eroded a happy people's hope

James Pringle, who has reported from Cambodia since 1970, writes from Phum Dong that, along with today's peace accord, the war-torn nation desperately needs aid

THE macabre cavalcade of human skeletons came tottering through the woods by the hundreds, thousands, then tens of thousands. The landscape had a fairy-tale quality, yellow butterflies fluttering everywhere.

In 1979, many of the Cambodians fleeing the Vietnamese invasion collapsed, their bodies weakened by privation suffered during Pol Pot's reign of terror. While some lay inert, others screamed in the throes of cerebral malaria.

That year, I flew into Phnom Penh soon after the Khmer Rouge had fled. There was an eerie silence in streets deserted save for a few emaciated people picking up single grains of rice. There was congealed blood on the floor of Toul Sleng, a school turned extermination centre, where people had been tortured to death after confessing to impossible CIA-KGB conspiracies.

Though the peace accord to be signed in Paris today by the four warring Cambodian factions formally ends 13

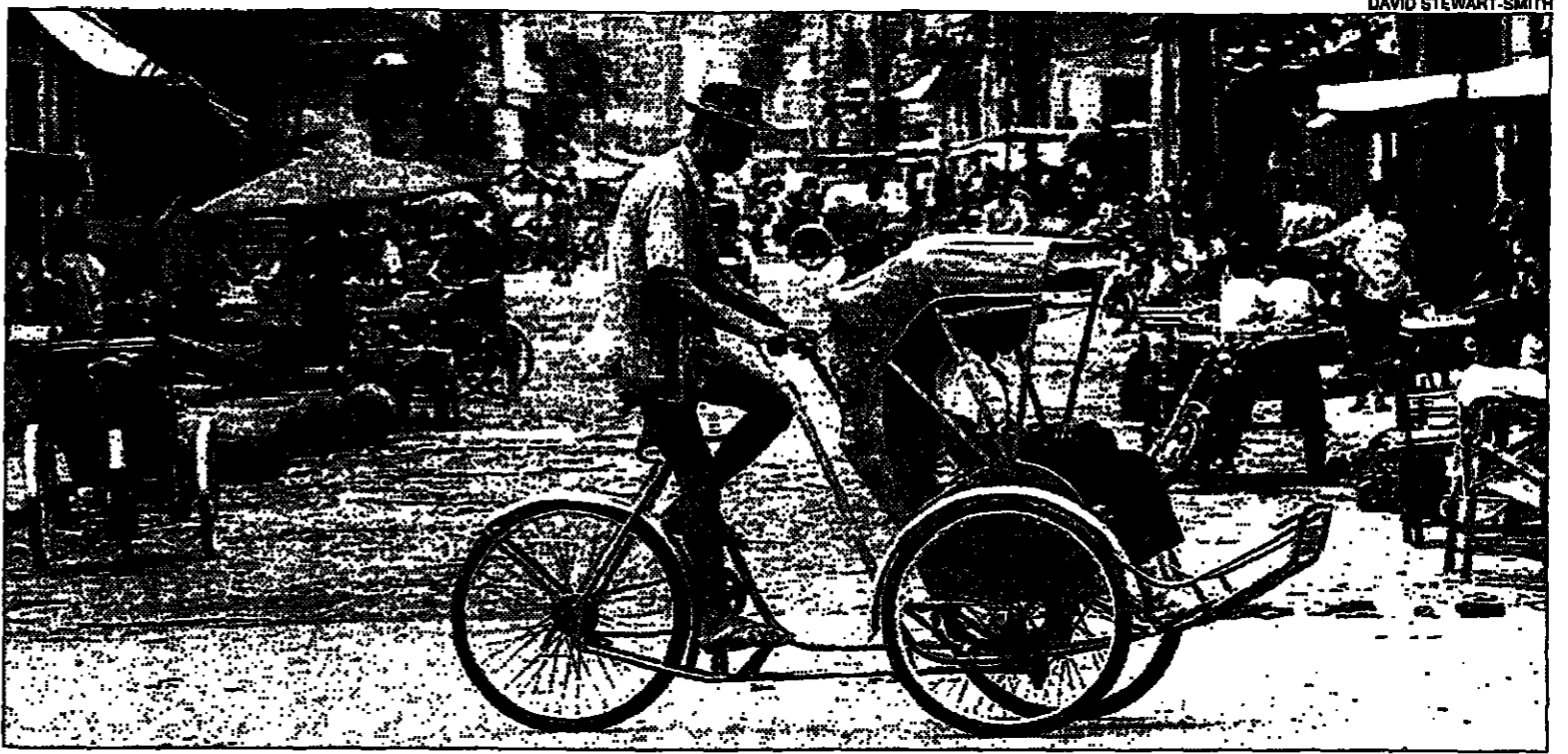
years of war, Cambodia's agony began in 1970 when President Nixon ordered American troops into the neutral country to attack what he said was a Vietnamese communist headquarters. That was when I first got to know Cambodia, and it was still a beguilingly pleasant, slightly zany land; a welcome contrast from Vietnam and its hatreds.

Life here appeared harmonious. No one seemed to go hungry and nearly everyone had a plot of land to plough. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the recently deposed head of state, may have been an autocrat, but there was a chicken in every pot, and laughter everywhere.

But Mr Nixon's actions spread this "side-show" war across Cambodia, leading ultimately to the emergence of the Khmer Rouge, whose philosophy was dreamed up in Paris left-bank cafes in the 1950s, founded on a corruption of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's dictum: "Man is born free but is everywhere in chains." Pol Pot said history

would start again at year zero: that is what happened. Now, the once-charming Cambodia has been so utterly obliterated that one stares at films showing the country 25 years ago in disbelief. Much of the country outside the capital looks like Europe might have done during the plague years, a land that has reverted to the 14th century, to the time of the decline of the great Khmer civilisation that built Angkor. As at that time, banditry abounds.

Human oxen pull carts through the mud; women carrying children tread gingerly to avoid landmines (of which there are an estimated 600,000) as they make their way from one pathetic village to the next. Competent people are hard to find. Intellectuals could be murdered by Khmer Rouge cadres for wearing spectacles or using a toothbrush, signs of "bourgeois tendencies". Nowadays, girls aged 15 look as if they are only ten. The mortality rate for children under five is 20 per cent.



Geared for change: a *cyclo* taxi making its way through Phnom Penh. The Cambodian factions will sign peace accords in Paris today

Eighty per cent of people have internal parasites, and dengue fever and virulent forms of malaria are rife. Phnom Penh has "get-rich-quick" enclaves of luxury for the military-business-

political elite. It has Mercedes cars, and is well-stocked with food and alcohol. It has prostitution, and AIDS has arrived.

The accords being signed today have left Cambodians, once the most optimistic of people, seemingly indifferent.

But at least the settlement will pave the way for large-scale international relief and reconstruction, and the welcome arrival of the men in blue helmets, the UN peace-keeping force. Out of a population of 8.3 million, 340,000 are still living in camps along the Thai border.

The World Food Programme feeds 170,000 who are displaced within the country. There are 26,000 amputees, and mine blasts cause 250 new ones each month. Life for most is a daily struggle for survival.

Guerrillas snipe at Hanoi ambitions

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

ON THE eve of the signing of the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge has called for the dismemberment of the Phnom Penh administration's local government structure saying that the new Supreme National Council must be the sole source of authority.

Khmer Rouge radio, apparently discounting forthcoming United Nations-sponsored elections, said that the council, an interim authority formed with representatives of all four warring factions including the Khmer Rouge, is "Cambodia's legitimate state organisation and the sole source of power". The Khmer Rouge will be represented on the council by Khieu Samphan. Pol Pot is believed to control the organisation from the shadows.

The radio station, operated by the radical Maoist guerrilla group which put Cambodia through a reign of terror from

1975 to 1979, hailed the forthcoming agreement as "an historic victory for our Cambodian people's national liberation struggle. However, this victory is only a preliminary one, meaning that we have a comprehensive agreement requiring that Vietnam ends its war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia. The fact is that the Hanoi Vietnamese have not yet given up their ambition to annex Cambodia and include it in their Indochinese federation."

Cambodian guerrillas yesterday accused government forces of launching an 11th-hour attack to grab land before today's peace accord. The Khmer People's National Liberation Front said that five government troops, one guerrilla and a woman civilian had been killed in two days of fighting around a guerrilla enclave near the Thai-Cambodian border. The rebels' spokesman, Ok Serey Sopha, said that both sides were pounding each other with artillery, but there had been no ground fighting since the front's troops recaptured a base on Monday.

The head of Cambodia's ruling party has expressed serious doubts about the UN's ability to monitor effectively the demobilisation of guerrilla forces. Chea Sim, president of the transformed Communist party, now the Cambodia People's party, said: "I don't know whether [the UN] will have enough ability or officials to supervise the forest regions and mountains."



Pol Pot: believed to remain in the driving seat

India fears quake toll in thousands

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN UTTARKASHI

RELIEF operations after the powerful earthquake in the Himalayan foothills of northern India are getting under way painfully slowly and thousands of people are marooned in villages without any prospect of imminent relief.

The death toll from Sunday's earthquake is likely to reach several thousand when flattened villages are finally reached. It is believed that there may be no survivors in some villages.

Abhai Singh's village, Ganesh Pur, was shattered. Forty-nine of the 1,000 residents are known to have been killed. Mr Singh believes his survival was a curse. He lost three teenage children, three daughters-in-law and five grandchildren. "The whole world has died for me," he said.

He was sitting beneath a tarpaulin sheet outside the rubble of what used to be home for seven families. His brother, aunts, uncles, cousins and his wife sat in a forlorn group while children packed meagre possessions into cases.

There are tragic scenes like this throughout the Uttarkashi region of Uttar Pradesh state, close to the border with Tibet. Those injured in Ganesh Pur were carried by piggy-back to a hospital in nearby Uttarkashi and some were ferried by four airforce helicopters that are bringing in relief supplies. The village is better off than most: its proximity to the hospital makes it likely that some of the injured will survive.

Mr Singh, aged 47, said his only surviving child was a son aged 17. The children who died were sleeping together when the concrete ceiling fell in on them in the middle of the night. The electricity was cut off and it was not until daylight that he and his relatives were able to pull them from the rubble. They were promptly cremated. All that day, funeral pyres burned in Ganesh Pur and smoke from other villages could be seen rising over the mountains.

Mr Singh hopes that the state government will honour a pledge to give 10,000 rupees (£230) to each family that suffered bereavement and lost their home. Otherwise he said he would return to the town of Tehri, some miles to the south, where he was born, leaving the quarter acre of land that has been his source of income since he came to the village eight years ago.

Commandant S.P. Chamoli, of the Indo-Tibet border security force, said about 500 men from the unit were trying to assess the damage, but they had no radios to report their findings. There was also a shortage of people with sufficient expertise to deal with such a disaster. He thought it would be several days before some villages were reached.

The Uttarkashi hospital has been overwhelmed with casualties. Many have been carried for miles. Doctors said they could not cope with more patients. There was a desperate shortage of medicines and homeless villagers were in urgent need of blankets.

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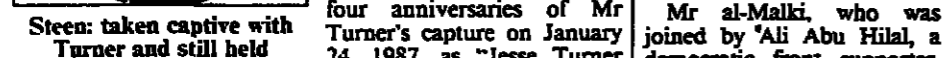


By RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Although the problem of Palestinian representation, which sabotaged last year's American peace initiative for

FROM IAN MURRAY IN WIESBADEN AND
MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

He arrived from Damascus several hours before his wife Badr and Joanne, the four-year-old daughter he had never met, flew in from the United States and he seemed to be keeping his emotions in check until he saw them. He arrived at Rhine-Main airport after a six-hour flight and was "apparently in good shape", but he is to have a series of tests over the next few days. He will also be debriefed by State Department officials, who hope to learn all they can about his captivity and the condition of Alann Steen, the other American hostage still held by his captors.



Mr Steen's brother, Bruce, expressed pleasure at Mr Turner's release and absolute confidence that Mr Steen would also be set free. "I never have any fear that this is going to turn out all wrong," he said. "I've always known he'll be released. It's just a matter of when."

Photograph, page 1

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

The only other serious contenders named so far are Bernard Chidzero, the Zim-

Mr Shamir told the parliament that there was "hope for peace" between Israel and its neighbours, but that it would not happen before certain developments took place.

Dr Shafi, the head of delegation, and the chairman of the Palestine Red Crescent society in the Gaza Strip, said he was not frightened by the threat. "Although they say our position is illegitimate, they should have the task of proving it. That would be better

than threatening anybody," he said.

top ON job. That speculation was fuelled by the fact that Mr Stoltenberg was

Hands of peace: Faisal Husseini embraces Rabbi Hirsch yesterday during his visit

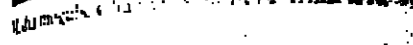
FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM.

Mr Hussein, already hard pressed by Palestinian extremists and tough Israeli conditions, offered the rabbi a kiss but little encouragement for Neturei Karta representation in Madrid. "We are facing a lot of problems in building the delegation and a lot of irrational conditions," he said. "I

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While the Israeli foreign minister has remained one of the most ardent supporters of the peace process, he is well aware of the prevailing political wind, which regards the concept of talks with Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians.



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Presidential welcome for Britain's latest daily paper

But Grimsditch is also promising more news in his bid to lure readers away from the *Star*, *Sun*, and *Mirror*. He acknowledges that *Sunday Sport*, with "its brand of deliberate idiocy, would not sell seven days a week."

But he says the *Financial Times* need not start chewing his nails just yet. *The Daily Sport's* early front-page splashes include "Hubby Flees Wife's Lesbian Lover," "Gay Cop In A Bum Rap" and "My Wife Swap Agency."

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buys premises or makes programmes. Millions of video recorders, television sets and home computers will suffer interference from the Channel 5 signal and will have to be re-tuned at the winner's expense.

Even then, the channel will cover only 70 per cent of the country, forcing the victor to take a transponder on the Astra satellite, or strike a deal with south-east cable companies to ensure that all viewers can receive Channel 5.

Consultation with the ITC will begin early next month after the draft invitation to apply is pub-

viewers can receive Channel 5's programming. The challenge will begin in early next month after the draft invitation to apply is published, with provisional guidelines informing bidders how much original production and diversity is required to pass the quality test. The ITC says the challenge will be to ensure that Channel 5 does not become an ITV lookalike.

However, the real challenge will be to make sure Channel 5's, whatever its form, is viable. With BSkyB's six channels expected to be generating much higher ratings by the mid-Nineties, Channel 5's prospects still seem doubtful.

M. W

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE DISPUTE

Negotiations with strings attached

In the long term, opera requires a radical rethink, argues Richard Morrison

Coming so soon after Covent Garden's staging of *The Ring*, the orchestral dispute that has caused the cancellation of this week's Royal Opera and Royal Ballet performances does have certain Wagnerian resonances. Here, for example, is a cynical and lachrymose struggle for "Rhinegold". The Opera House management begs for yet more taxpayers' money (it already receives more than £15 million in annual subsidy) to help it towards some fantasy Valhalla — or at the very least, to wipe out its accumulated £1.7 million deficit. Star soloists twist the management's arm for fees in excess of £10,000 a performance, and then create merry hell by demanding the right to alter the choice of opera.

Now the orchestra wants a 24 per cent pay increase spread over two years. To concentrate the management's minds, the players have devised an ingenious but ludicrous piece of pseudo-musicology to trigger the house's closure: they claim that in the original 1836 score of Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots*, there would have

been four intervals, not one. If the new production that was scheduled to open tomorrow had followed this dubious scholarship, the overtime payments would indeed have been colossal.

Any opera management must deal with four distinct groups of employees — each with their separate house agreements — who can each bring the house to a halt.

'Covent Garden cannot afford to give in to the musicians; neither can it afford to cancel performances'

They are the orchestra, the chorus, the corps de ballet and the stagehands. It is not even necessary for anybody to strike: so arcane and numerous are the rules governing every group's working practices that simply "playing it by the book" can cause havoc. Then, if the management agrees to one group's demands, a ferocious game of leapfrog ensues: the chorus demands parity with the players, and so on.

Nothing in the British opera house yet rivals the sheer backstage bloody-mindedness that closed the Metropolitan Opera in New York for virtually a whole season. But we are getting close. Covent Garden has been seriously disrupted by industrial trouble four times in six years: orchestra



Players in the negotiating game: Music director Bernard Haitink conducts the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, which is at present involved in a pay dispute

in 1986, chorus in 1987, ballet in 1989, now orchestra again. Nor is Covent Garden alone in Britain. Welsh National Opera, for instance, fought a long battle with its musicians in 1988.

Is the present claim by the Covent Garden orchestra justified? The orchestra maintains that the money a musician must spend on clothes and instrument is insufficiently taken into account. Stringed instruments, in particular, may cost anything from £12,000 up to £30,000, even for a rank-and-file player. But that is a one-off purchase, necessary for the pursuit of a chosen profession. Instrumentalists throughout the world accept this premise; to use it

as a negotiating ploy in one particular dispute is disingenuous. In fact, the ROH Orchestra has a good deal when compared not only with the Covent Garden chorus and ballet (whose members have less opportunity to freelance and teach) but also with regional British opera orchestras.

These, however, are not the comparisons that pit musicians make. Their very position in the theatre exacerbates a siege mentality. They are caught between soloists on stage earning more in one evening (in some cases) than a player's basic annual salary, and an audience rich enough to afford £100 a ticket. Angus Stirling, the ROH chairman, rightly said this

week that "Covent Garden is in no position to sanction further increases in pay." But a management which recently sanctioned the use of Gianni Versace costumes is hardly sending signals of poverty to its workforce.

In fact, Covent Garden cannot afford to give in to the musicians, but neither can it afford to cancel performances for long. That costs £300,000 a week in lost revenue. Jeremy Isaacs, Covent Garden's general director, has never faced a greater test of nerve.

But is the perennial flexing of industrial muscle in opera houses inevitable? Not if one house was

prepared to rethink, from the roots up, its way of doing business. The Byzantine mess of union agreements must go. Even the Musicians' Union (in its less warlike moments) recognises this. Last year, it published (jointly with WNO) a report into orchestral salaries that emphasised the need for opera companies to break into more television and video work if they are to survive. In this context, the report warned that present house agreements "might hinder the growth of remuneration and the protection of jobs". Penetration of new markets would require "a change in culture for management, unions and staff". Earlier, this year I wrote that the

Covent Garden management should regard the theatre's 1996 closure for redevelopment "as an opportunity to sweep away all the costly inflexibilities of the present company". London has so many superb freelance musicians that "no opera company need shackle itself to a permanent salaried orchestra". In a letter to *The Times*, Isaacs rebutted my argument with the blunt assertion that "there is very little wrong with opera in London that a modest increase in subsidy could not put right." As he watches the "Twilight of the Gods" played out at his own negotiating table, he may now be more sympathetic to radical solutions.

RECORDS: OPERA

Dramatic coupling of passion

THAT Sir Georg Solti should wish to end his long and glorious tenure at the Chicago Symphony with a big bang was understandable, and orchestral bangs do not come much louder than the thunderstorm opening Verdi's *Otello*. Add the spice of Pavarotti's first appearance in the title role, and the two concert performances of *Otello* last April were to be the event of the Chicago season.

A virus which affected Pavarotti and other cast members, as well as Solti himself, muffled that bang a little. But fortunately there were two further *Otellos* scheduled for New York's Carnegie Hall the following week, from which Decca took most material for this recording, rushed out in double-quick time.

At its start, Pavarotti announces his intention to try to

Verdi: *Otello*, Te Kanawa/Pavarotti/Nucci. Chicago Phil/Solti. Decca 433 669-2 (2 CDs). Mascagni: *Cavalleria rusticana*. Norman/Giacomini/Hvorostovsky. Orchestre de Paris/Bychkov. Philips 432 105-2 (1 CD)

break the grip Placido Domingo has held on *Otello* since he first recorded the role with Levine in 1978. The victorious opening, "Esultate", and the announcement that Muslim pride has finally been buried deep in the sea, would do credit to Stormin' Norman himself. But the close of Act I filters and the Love Duet, the passage in the opera likely to have suited Pavarotti's tenor best, is oddly cool and strained.

Thereafter, he fights his way back into the role, gaining strength from act to act. The cry for blood after the episode of the handkerchief — and few know more about handker-

chiefs than Pavarotti — is thrilling, as is the cursing of Desdemona before the Venetian emissaries. For the close, and *Otello's* final despair, Pavarotti achieves that tragic baritone timbre which sometimes eludes him earlier. Here he recalls the finest of the post-war Italian *Otellos*, Mario del Monaco.

Kiri Te Kanawa's Desdemona is a sturdier lady than the one preferred by her regular rivals, Freni and Ricciarelli, in the part. In the Love Duet she is as staid as Pavarotti, but given the passions generated by bafflement, rejection and fear, she is away. The Act III finale

finds her in glowing voice, and the final act has the pinpoint accuracy of the instruments following her in the orchestra.

In a strong supporting cast, the Cassio of Anthony Rolfe Johnson stands out. But the set has a major weakness in Leo Nucci's surprisingly colourless Iago. He bumps along in the opening Brindisi and the voice rarely drips Iago's poison.

Solti's Covent Garden *Otello* used to be high-tension affairs, sometimes to the detriment of the singers. Years have not dimmed the wattage but Solti is now immensely considerate to those before him. Excitability has now turned into an ability to excite others as well as to savour the simplest of passages, such as the little chorus of homage to Desdemona in Act II. This new Decca *Otello* ranks, along



Thrilling *Otello* team: Luciano Pavarotti and Kiri Te Kanawa

with Toscanini's, as the best conducted of the available sets.

WOULD that Semyon Bychkov obtained such playing from the Orchestre de Paris in *Cavalleria rusticana*. This is a sanitised version of the opera, with the chorus, in particular, sounding as though it got no closer to the Sicily of Mascagni and Verga than the Champs-Élysées.

Jessye Norman's Santuzza has plenty of power and is so formidable that Turiddu would seem more likely to get a hiding than tears should be caught cheating on her. The soprano may soar easily above everybody else in the Easter Hymn, but the earthiness of the part is lacking. Giuseppe Giacomini's Turiddu is nearer

the mark: dark-hued and impetuous. Dmitri Hvorostovsky's silken baritone is far too refined for Alfio, the village carter. For the true flavour of Sicilian passion, where a bite on the ear means a knife in the heart, stay with Sinopoli. Domingo and Baltsa on DG.

Those looking for a mid-price Cav should note the release on EMI (CMS 7 63967 2) of the Scala recording with Corelli as an outstanding Turiddu, which comes coupled with *Pagliacci*.

JOHN HIGGINS

ARTS REVIEWS

Benedict Nightingale reviews the latest theatre Page 18

TELEVISION REVIEW

Persuasive lines

The image, in a rather dusty black-and-white, dates from pre-war Mongolia. Unsurprisingly, then, it is not an image with which one is familiar. A group of actors wearing silky coats and funny Chinese pointed hats are saving the air with operatic gestures and speaking in actorly tones. "How wonderful Choibalsan is!" says a character called First Peasant (for we are in the strange world of propaganda, and Choibalsan is Mongolia's murderous dictator). "He is not my mother or my father, yet he teaches me so much!"

"You are wrong," replies Second Peasant. "He is your mother; he is your father; he is your teacher. He is all of these." Which is, apparently, the right thing to say, because the scene ends on a joyous patriotic note, without anybody being dragged out by the pigtail and shot.

Other people's propaganda is strangely comforting; it always looks so ham-fisted. "Wouldn't catch me falling for something as obvious as that," we think, while tut-tutting over the poor suckers we stupidly assume were its dupes. But take this Mongolian example from Brian Barron's fascinating *Assignment* (BBC 2) last night. It seems that the people of Mongolia who dutifully turned out and "wept to order" for the cameras beside Choibalsan's coffin, nevertheless had more than an inkling that their mother-father-teacher had been busy wiping out the Lamaist faith in Mongolia by the simple method of shooting all the lamas.

A particularly lively scene (a Soviet film-maker's work) showed an apparently hyperactive child-lama kicking the cropped heads of a succession of crawling peasant devotees. Dreadful behaviour. Yet still strange to imagine that anyone would see such scenes and say, "Yes, Choibalsan is right! These scum do not deserve to live!" But I suppose this

misses the point. Perhaps propaganda is designed less to persuade than to terrorise.

Last night's *Without Walls: Selling Murder* (Channel 4) again took the subject of 50-year-old propaganda, but this time it was of the Nazi kind. Its targets were the "hereditarily ill", the mentally and physically handicapped (as well as the catch-all category "feeble-minded"), who were being secretly herded into gas chambers from 1939 onwards.

These films were generally a mixture of drama (thoughtful Aryans in lab-coats pondering the issue of euthanasia) and actuality (the implicitly subhuman faces of the incurably mad), and touted a message that was crude and terrifying. Euthanasia is a mercy, in fact we have been guilty of violating the laws of nature by allowing such lowlifes to survive.

Selling Murder presented the story of this strand of propaganda with great clarity. It was businesslike, thorough, and scrupulously unmanipulative. Having recovered scripts of the worst of the films (destroyed by Nazis at the end of the war), the programme simply reconstructed them — although forgivably it did not attempt to recreate the "top secret" film in which a real-life mental patient was shown dying in a gas chamber. Strange, wasn't it, how none of it really persuaded you that killing hundreds of thousands of people was a charitable act?

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

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The Royal Opera House announces with regret that because of a wage dispute with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House all performances by The Royal Opera and The Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House have been cancelled until further notice. The Royal Opera House apologises for the disappointment and inconvenience that this will inevitably cause and hopes that it will not be long before a solution to the dispute can be found. The Box Office will continue to take forward bookings on the understanding that money will be refunded if the House remains closed.

REFUNDS

Full refunds on the face value of tickets are available once the performance date has passed. Refunds can be claimed on presentation of tickets in person at the Box Office or by returning the tickets by post to:

Refunds, Royal Opera House,
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23 1991

Lady

Ruth Gledhill reports on the "non-sectarian" prayer book the traditional church's...

Jesus did not call his father mother. I follow Jesus line on this...

No we hor

Ladies and the name of the Lord

Ruth Gledhill reports on the publication of a "non-sexist" prayer book and its effect on the traditional church's attitude to women

Traditionalists in the Church of England are rubbing their hands at the prospect of a dispute over the thorny theological issue of inclusive, or feminist, language. At issue is the content of *Women Included*, a "non-sexist" prayer book to be published next week by the Society for Promotion of Christian Knowledge (SPCK), one of the country's oldest and most reputable Christian publishers.

Here, God is referred to as "she" and the Lord's Prayer begins: "Beloved, our Father and Mother, in whom is heaven."

Already, this or other similar prayers which ascribe a feminine gender to God are being used in at least one Anglican theological college and in Anglican churches in London and other cities. Traditional soldiers of Christ are busy donning their armour and preparing to sally forth.

Church law, as enshrined in Canon B5, allows clergy to make "variations which are not of substantial importance" in any authorised service. But no one has yet been called on to determine how important "substantial importance" is.

On Monday, Michael Allison MP, second Church Estates Commissioner, insisted it would be unlawful to change God's gender in church liturgy because the official liturgy of the church is authorised by Parliament. But the issue goes beyond a change of pronoun. Leading church members of both sexes, including some who support women's ordination, said they were alarmed by an increasing use and acceptance of language which in some cases has more in common with New Age than Christianity.

Protesters blame the St Hilda Community, founded by a group of radical feminists depressed by the treatment of women in the church, for the latest dispute. Its book, *Women Included*, is a collection of liturgies developed since it began meeting in 1987. The community met originally in a chapel owned by the London Diocese, but was forced to move to the Bow Mission in east London, a church in which Methodist and Anglican services are held, after a dispute over its practice of inviting women priests from abroad to celebrate communion.

The community's book has been widely condemned, but has also attracted a bedrock of support from male and female theologians.

According to Monica Furlong, a radical Anglican feminist and one of the founders of St Hilda's, the community's name was chosen because the abbess founded, at Whitby, a mixed-sex community and because she was a "nice change from all those neurotic women saints". Ms Furlong argues in the introduction to the book that the community's liturgies restore to the church the traditions of nature and natural processes, such as birth and creation, which have been "deemed by the patriarchy as pagan". She appears somewhat dazed by the hostility the prayer book has attracted even before publication: the community says it decided to publish because of the numbers of requests it received for its prayers.

Janice Price, a parliamentary consultant and administrator of the Order of Christian Unity, which supports Christian values in the family and society, speaks for many mainstream Anglicans when she says she supports the ordination of women, but cannot ascribe to a feminine God. "Although I see in the character of God as revealed in scripture certain motherly attributes, we have traditionally called God father and that is not just arbitrary. Jesus did not call his father mother. I follow Jesus' line on this." That will reassure traditionalists who fear that women's ordination is a Trojan horse that will bring into the church a feminist agenda that will transform Christianity.

Margot Thompson, a traditionalist Anglican of the Prayer Book Society, says: "What people say in the privacy of their homes is a matter for their conscience. We believe the Book of Common Prayer is as inclusive as it is right to be."

Influential feminist theologians of all denominations are standing behind radical liturgies. Professor Mary Grey, a Roman Catholic who does not see her feminism as in conflict with her religion, is English but holds the chair of Feminism and Christianity at Nijmegen in Holland. She says: "It is not just a question of changing pronouns.

Feminist theology is a critique of the entire theological method as we know it. Traditionalists are quite right to be frightened. Christianity will look different.

"It is not about a few crazy women shouting about calling God she. It is about changing the lives of women the world over."

Professor Grey cites the traditional perception of Mary Magdalene as an example of the need for change, asking why, if Mary was given the commission by Christ to preach of Resurrection, she is remembered as a prostitute and not as a disciple.

Professor Ursula King, a Catholic and the head of theology and religious studies at Bristol University, said: "He is a very limited pronoun for God. Theology has to begin to rethink from the start what God means."



Strong words: the liturgies restore to the church traditions of nature and natural processes, such as birth and creation, Monica Furlong says

right, feminist theology will come to be seen, not as some dotty fringe affair, but at the centre of the way the church must move.

Women Included has helped to move the debate into centre stage. Prayers which describe God as "Our mother, source of deep wisdom, who holds and protects us" are unlikely ever to become part of the authorised liturgy of the Church of England, which remains true to tradition. But Dr Edward Norman, chaplain of Christ Church, Canterbury, suggests that the church would be in trouble if feminist liturgy was treated with indifference.

He said the debate, as with the debate over liberation theology,

was "as nothing" compared with the endurance of Christianity over 2,000 years. The SPCK book, he suggested, was no more than a book of contemporary prayers and, although it would be illegal to use this version of the Lord's Prayer in an authorised service, it could be legally used by Anglicans in private worship.

"The transient enthusiasms of our age need some kind of expression," Dr Norman says. "They are only important because a lot of people regard them as important to them."

"So what if people address God as she in church? It would be more worrying if people did not address God at all."

Professor King chaired a recent conference "Liberating Women: New Theological Directions", when women theologians of all faiths from 20 countries met at Bristol University. In a powerful closing address to the conference, Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, MEP and former prime minister of Portugal, forecast: "At the dawn of the 21st century the women's movement may constitute the most international of all social movements." The Roman Catholic journal *The Tablet* responded by predicting that, if the MEP was

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& BRIEFLY

Crèche courses

NURSERY slopes with nurseries — or at least crèche facilities are being sought by Made to Measure Holidays, which is drawing up a list of child-friendly resorts in Europe and America. "We hope to have a brochure out soon. In the meantime, if people tell us what they want, we will be happy to help," a spokesman for the firm says. Made to Measure Holidays is at 43 East Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1HX (telephone 0243 533333).

Green season

A SNOWMAN protesting against global warming is among the environmentally conscious Christmas cards available from the new Traidcraft catalogue, printed naturally, on recycled paper, as is an assortment of gift-wrapping at £2 for eight sheets. The catalogue costs 75p from Traidcraft plc, Kingsway, Team Valley Trading Estate, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE11 0NE (telephone 091-491 0591).

Bags of style

FOR those who prefer handbags without designer initials, Bottega Veneta, a range of Venetian leathergoods, will be at Harvey Nichols from next Wednesday. Its hallmark is the "intrecciato" technique of hand-weaving in soft nappa leather. Prices start at £140 for the Marco Polo handbag.

Fair facts

STALLS at the Birthright Christmas Fair this year include the 22-carat designs of Ilias Lalounis, the master goldsmith, Jane Asher's cakes and Marion Foale's knitwear. The fair will take place at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists at 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1, on Wednesday, November 27. Tickets, £3, may be bought in advance. Order from Birthright, at the above address, or telephone 071-262 5337.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Who will be sitting uncomfortably in front of *The Men's Room* once more?

Television viewers who found last week's scenes of Charity and Mark, the ardent lovers of *The Men's Room*, cuddling up in bed in their jimjams like an old married couple deeply shocking, can relax about tonight's episode of the series. Less than five minutes into this final instalment, the couple are again cavorting naked by the fireside, bodies writhing in ecstasy, the flickering light from the flames dancing upon glistening skin, etc. etc.

There has been a lot of fuss about the sex in *The Men's Room*, BBC 2's dramatisation of the Ann Oakley novel about relationships between men and women in the 1980s.

Overall, there seems to be the feeling among both men and women that television is not the place for rapturous sex scenes, that sex on television is not a spectator sport. Something about the medium makes us embarrassed or simply unbelieving in a way that we would not if we were watching the same scenes in the cinema.

Perhaps the mood is more fragile to start with, and more easily broken: the children wander downstairs, the phone rings, your partner leans across and asks if you really want that last onion bhaji from the takeaway curry. Bathos lurks just around the corner. I cannot think of a neater example of this than an advertisement shown some Saturday evenings ago. It was for a Sunday newspaper's glossy part-work on how to improve your love life. This commercial, all golden-bodied embraces, was followed by one for Horlicks.

Antonia Bird, the director of *The Men's Room*, says the series is not about sex. "I get terribly angry when it's misjudged and hyped as a sex romp. It is about a relationship in which sex is an important part."

The depiction of passion, she says, was crucial in establishing how an otherwise perceptive woman throws caution to the winds. "It is an extraordinarily physical affair, particularly in the early days. Charity is discovering her sexuality. We wanted it to be celebratory and for people to think what a wonderful time they were having, and we wanted it to be funny."

"We were desperate not to exploit Charity. We tried very hard to be as equal as possible."

No sex please, we're staying home tonight



High fidelity? Walter and Nighy in *The Men's Room*

I have done a count, and I swear that there are as many shots of Mark's bottom as there are of Charity's. At one point there is even a shot of his genitals. Of course there is always the problem of women's chests being different from men's."

Miss Bird, Laura Lamson, the scriptwriter, Harriet Walter (Charity), and Bill Nighy (Mark) discussed how the novel's sex scenes should be realised for television.

"We tried to gauge very carefully where the relationship would be sexually at each stage. We talked about what techniques they would use, how long it would last, if they were really excited with each other what it would lead to."

Miss Bird says: "We are all married or with a permanent partner, so I suppose we brought our own experiences to bear to some extent."

"But when it comes to filming it can be hilarious. You try to be serious and grown up, but you get in to silly positions and then you have to have a BBC tea break."

It is not embarrassing because you have to be so technical. It really is 'you put your hand there' and 'your leg goes here', and 'if Bill does that, it will hide that bit of Harriet'. It is acting by numbers."

The decision to hire women to adapt and direct was taken early on in the project by the producer, David Snodin, who wanted it to be "essentially a female exercise". Like his director, he maintains that the sex is essential, though he has done a few sums to answer the critics. "Only about two or three per cent of the film involves sex itself, though it is always there as an undertone. Of course on television it can be intrusive, it can be like watching two strangers make love on your sofa."

"Viewers have to make their choices, but for my own sanity I could not make something bland just because it was going in to people's sitting rooms. One does set out to challenge preconceptions. I wanted audiences to come away seriously questioning the way men and women treat each other."

Despite a mixed critical response, both he and Miss Bird claim favourable reactions in their straw polls. Miss Bird says her 70-year-old mother and her friends love it, as do most of the women she has spoken to. "I think men may be a bit threatened by the character of Mark, though. But no one has said anything negative about the sex."

My own straw poll, however, revealed unease on several fronts. Some women, for example, commented that celebrations of female sexuality may be all very new and wonderful, but they still seem to involve the old routine of a good-looking woman taking off all her clothes, only now it has to be an actress of Harriet Walter's calibre.

Others thought that in the portrayal of erotic love less is often more, and that a few seconds of convincingly acted emotion are more heady than a load of carefully choreographed contortions. On this point, it is interesting that one of the most powerful and poignant themes of the piece — Charity's friend Sally's desperate struggle to conceive — is done without so much as a glimpse of bare flesh.

LIZ GILL

TONIGHT, 1000s OF CHILDREN WILL SLEEP UNDER A PLASTIC SHEET, IN A FREEZING FIELD, IN A LAND THEY DO NOT KNOW.

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WIDER STILL, AND WIDER

The agreement creating a European Economic Area (EEA) of 19 nations in 1993, signed in Luxembourg yesterday, is splendid news. It could add an extra 2 per cent to Britain's gross domestic product. But it has political significance far greater than the benefits of adding the seven nations of the European Free Trade Area to the European Community's "single market". Enlargement of the EC to include such neutral countries as Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland (and, sooner than foreseen only months ago, the democracies of Eastern Europe), will now be at the heart of the European debate after this December's Maastricht summit.

The EEA negotiation was initiated by Jacques Delors three years ago, with the aim of postponing the further enlargement of the EC by finding the Scandinavian and Alpine Europeans a comfortable "half-way house" of access to the EC common market without membership. As M Delors now admits, that strategy has been overtaken by the changes in Eastern Europe and by the complexity of the EEA negotiations.

Austria and Sweden came to see little virtue in a deal which would require them to transfer 10,000 pages of EC law onto their statute books but limited their influence on EC decisions. Their applications to join the EC are in, Finland is now moving in that direction and even Switzerland has announced that the ultimate goal of its foreign policy is EC membership. Any discussion of the "deepening" of the Community which does not take the needs, interests and political cultures of a future EC of 24-30 members into account is, as the Commission now concedes, unrealistic.

Trade between the EFTA seven and the twelve members of the EC would have been considerable even without this agreement, accounting already for two-thirds of EFTA trade and a quarter of the EC's. In that sense, the agreement is no more than a recognition of common interests, gratuitously reinforced by soft loans and grants from the EFTA

countries worth £1.7 billion for the EC's poorest Mediterranean members. In theory, the result will be the world's largest free market, although this week's wrangles to secure further opening of EFTA fisheries and transport routes to EC producers show how riddled this "free market" is by cartel deals that make a mockery of free trade.

The EC now has two tasks. The first is to ensure that its plans for what is still called "political union" take account of the reluctance of Switzerland, Sweden and Austria to be part of a common "security policy". The rules of the club must not be a hurdle to their accession. The EC cannot hope to submerge an ever more diverse range of countries in its bureaucratic ooze. Thus, for example, the Franco-German proposal for a European army, involving an EC takeover of the Western European Union, could only hinder the coming together of Europe's democracies. On that ground alone, leaving aside doubts about the plan's operational feasibility and the danger of alienating America from Nato, it should be firmly resisted.

The second more urgent task is to demonstrate that this agreement is compatible with global, not just regional, free trade. That means an early fresh offer from Brussels capable of unblocking the negotiations on the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, where the EC's refusal to dismantle protectionist farm policies is the principal obstacle. Germany has at last given the EC's trade negotiators an amber light to make a better offer, but France still appears to be stalling.

Should these global negotiations fail, the boast of creating the world's largest free trade area will ring hollow in the resulting global recession. The Uruguay Round is more important than the preparations for Maastricht. It is about world prosperity, not the chasing of some chimerical federal union. It must now be John Major's absolute priority. The conclusion of the EEA deal is a valuable staging post along that route.

WAR OF WALDEGRAVE'S EAR

The phoney war over the National Health Service entered a bizarre new phase this week. The health secretary, William Waldegrave, wished to reassure his backbench wobbles about Labour's allegation of "creeping privatisation". He pronounced any charge on NHS patients except those allowed by law to be illegal. To round off an argument that Labour has made impenetrably confused with such a tautology must have been a sacrifice for a minister as intelligent as Mr Waldegrave. He presumably thought it a sacrifice worth making just to neutralise Labour's doomsday weapon. Privatisation, he implied, is not merely off the Tory agenda: it is against the law.

Charges of any kind for health care may be anathema to any governing party struggling to avert the horror of a single-issue election. But NHS patients who are ill do not receive and will continue to receive free treatment, whether at a trust hospital or at one run by a health authority. The apparent grey area — outpatients who pay prescription charges for drugs used during day treatment in hospital — arises from confusion over the distinction between inpatients, who have never been charged, and outpatients, who have always paid towards the cost of their drugs.

Neither Labour, nor the health service unions, nor anybody else with an axe to grind has so far produced examples of NHS hospitals which have started charging NHS patients for the provision of treatment that is normally available free at the point of delivery. The incontinence pads alleged to have been charged for by Scarborough district health authority were in fact going to patients at a private hospital so far adduced by Labour stands up to scrutiny.

The accusations against the in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) unit at St Bartholomew's are absurd. As one of only three NHS hospitals in the country to offer this new and expensive treatment, St Bartholomew's does expect patients to help meet the cost, which is heavily cross-subsidised by the private Portland hospital. Whereas the Portland

would normally charge £1,600 a month, St Bartholomew's has recently begun to charge £350. It has had to do this, not because the hospital has acquired trust status, but because the recession has reduced its cross-subsidy from private medicine. In four-fifths of cases referred to St Bartholomew's during this time, the district authority has borne the cost of the treatment. In the remaining nine cases, individuals have paid voluntarily from their own pockets as private patients.

Such are the hard choices which modern medicine imposes on any system which is free at the point of delivery and hence is subject to unrestricted demand. Some health authorities consider that IVF is a low priority, like much elective surgery. The internal market in the NHS is intended to make specialised treatments more readily available, but clearly the hospital cannot be expected to meet the full cost out of its own budget. The buck stops with the health authority, which must judge finely the cost-effectiveness of each new treatment. As John MacGregor said yesterday: "It is up to local authorities to decide local priorities."

The unfortunate impression given by Mr Waldegrave on Monday was that charging implies some malpractice that must be stopped. His bald statement in the Commons that "NHS patients cannot be charged, and that is the end of that" is open to misinterpretation. NHS patients pay various charges, and always have done, but within strictly defined limits.

Most sensible users of the health service expect some charging, for private beds, certain medicines, the expedition of non-urgent surgery, cosmetic operations. Some of these services are conveniences for which the taxpayer should not pay; others might even be ways of rationing resources to help those most in need. Such charging has nothing to do with privatisation. The hospital trusts are not transgressing the limits; they are extending the options. Mr Waldegrave need not apologise for sensible practice that should be extended rather than banned.

HEDGED PROMISES

While ministers promise legislation — always for the next rather than the current parliamentary session — Britain's hedgerows are continuing to disappear. A new study commissioned by the environment department estimates that of almost 300,000 miles of hedgerow in England and Wales in 1984, a tenth had been destroyed by 1990. About 58,900 miles of the hedges that remain, the study found, are so neglected as no longer to deserve the name of hedgerow; they are little more than a few trees and scrub.

This bleak picture is mitigated by the evidence of a sharply increased rate of new plantings and the restoration of previously derelict hedgerows, apparently in response to grants introduced by the government in the mid-1980s. About 4,000 miles of hedgerow were removed each year during the period 1984-90 in England, but slightly over 2,000 miles of new hedges were planted, six times the average of the previous six years. But new hedges, however desirable, take years to become fully established.

What is not yet clear is why the destruction is continuing at such a pace. Road and house building has played its part but farmers and landowners must take most of the blame. Even though grants for removing hedges have not been available since 1976, many farmers still seem to find the money to enlarge their fields. At the same time, the large-scale neglect of hedgerows suggests that for an even larger number,

falling farm incomes are making hedgerow upkeep an unaffordable luxury. The government's announcement that it will soon introduce new grants for managing hedgerows does not go far enough. Planning sticks are needed along with financial carrots.

The countryside cannot be kept in aspic. Man has been shaping the landscape through agriculture since neolithic times. Many of today's hedges were created by the parliamentary enclosures of the 18th century, controversial in their day. Tractors and combine harvesters demand fields of reasonable size if they are to operate cost-effectively. The rise of the monoculture arable farm without livestock has also reduced the need for small enclosures.

What has been worrying over the past half century has been the brutal pace of the change and the inertia of governments only too ready in the past to encourage countryside destruction. In its white paper on the environment in September 1990, the government promised to introduce legislation protecting hedgerows. Last July, under pressure of a revolt by rural MPs on the Tory backbenches, Tony Baldry, the junior environment minister, announced proposals that would require farmers to give notice of an intention to remove a hedgerow and empower local authorities to issue protection orders similar to those for trees. The government must announce the relevant legislation in the Queen's Speech next week.

Need to tackle rugby standards

From Mr B. C. Goss

Sir, There is more than a "sour taste" (as reported by your Rugby Correspondent, October 21) to the Rugby World Cup following the alleged incidents with the referee after Saturday's match at Parc des Princes. Society needs standards. Officials of the game of rugby football have to uphold basic human principles: principles of decency.

Allegations of harassment of the seriousness of those made against Daniel Dubroca, the French coach, and Pascal Ondarts, the French prop, must be dealt with, no matter how strongly denied. If Russ Thomas, chairman of Rugby World Cup, is not prepared to make a public stand over this, then pressure should be applied from all quarters in an attempt to make him change his mind. If he does not, then he should resign from his position.

Yours sincerely,
BEN GOSS
(Housemaster, Bruce House, and master in charge of rugby),
Gordonstoun School,
Elgin, Morayshire,
October 22.

Women's priorities

From the Shadow Minister for Women

Sir, It may have escaped Peter Riddell's attention (article, October 21) but the crucial defect in the current structure of government is that it fails to deliver for women. Our laws are made by men, for men — and women's priorities are squeezed to the bottom of the agenda.

This has not escaped the attention of women voters, though. Which is why our polling shows strong support for a ministry for women. It is also why John Major has promised there will be women in his next cabinet. Too late: he should have had them there already. Labour is justly proud that it already has four women in the shadow cabinet and a guaranteed three places for women in its first cabinet. This is in addition to a ministry for women.

The ministry is a mechanism which will ensure all government legislation is specifically considered for its impact on women's lives. The ministry will also have the power to initiate legislation.

The cabinet status of the women's minister will ensure she has the authority to carry these changes through. This is not "empty tokenism" as Peter Riddell so patronisingly assumes but a serious proposal to change the priorities of Westminster and Whitehall to reflect women's priorities.

Yours sincerely,
JO RICHARDSON
(MP for Barking),
House of Commons,
October 21.

Lost opportunity?

From Miss J. Castell-Evans

Sir, You reported (early editions, October 17) that British Rail had burnt unused uniforms worth £100,000. I am saddened that British Rail could not find a better use for these uniforms when many charities are in need of clothes for refugees, the homeless, etc.

Yours faithfully,
J. CASTELL-EVANS,
10 Gledes Road,
Perry, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire.

Cathedral revenue

From the Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral

Sir, Your headline of October 18 (later editions), "Bishop issues reproof to cathedral profiteers", is unacceptable. As one who has been partly responsible for the acts of the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury over the last 19 years I would like to say that our most difficult task has been to keep this sacred and marvellous building in good repair so that future generations may derive the same inspiration and pleasure from it that we do — not just the congregation, not just the diocese, not even just our fellow-countrymen, but people from all over the world who come to visit it.

To suggest that trying, sometimes desperately, to raise the money with which to do this is "profiteering" is quite simply to misuse that word.

Yours sincerely,
IAN DUNLOP,
24 The Close,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Explosives safeguards

From Mr D. L. Thomas

Sir, The Chief Constable of Merseyside (letter, October 17) defends the Control of Explosives Regulations 1991 and the greatly increased powers thereby given to the police on the grounds of increased administrative efficiency and further states that "the existence of wide-ranging powers does not imply a vigorous enforcement and most certainly not in the manner described in Bernard Levin's article" (October 7).

It is difficult to see why these powers under the Health and Safety Act should be given to the police. Given that, within the meaning of the Act, "explosives" embraces liquid fuels, bottled gas and other common inflammables, the appropriate expertise surely lies with fire-prevention officers employed by the fire brigades. The safekeeping of explosives used in mines and quarrying will, in any

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

EC law and environment projects

From Dr Stephen T. Atkins

Sir, I hope the government will not react to the EC Environment Commissioner's letter (report, October 19) in the manner of a spoilt child, but will use the opportunity to reconsider genuinely its policies with respect to development and the environment. As advocates of the market economy, the government should take notice of the willingness of consumers to pay an environmental premium for goods and services that are less damaging to the environment.

In the case of the M3 around Winchester, project work under my supervision indicated that travellers along this route would be willing to pay a toll, at about the level of £1 per journey, in order to protect the local environment by placing the road in a tunnel under Twyford Down. Interestingly the same study produced values of traveller time savings close to those used by the Department of Transport, providing some corroboration that the "value" of environmental concern was properly gauged.

If the government is serious about its citizens' charter, its actions should reflect public opinion about value for money and provide the £80 million or so necessary to save this triple-designated landscape.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN T. ATKINS,
The University of Southampton,
Department of Civil Engineering,
Southampton SO9 5NH.

From Councillor Huw Morgan-Thomas

Sir, Malcolm Rifkind's reported "puzzlement" at the request by the European Commission that work should be halted on a number of projects in the UK is strange, given the lengthy correspondence in which his own officials have sought to persuade the Commission that EC environmental legislation does not apply to the disputed projects.

The EC directive in question was notified to member states of the Community in July 1985 and came into effect in July 1988. The government's response has been leisurely, to say the least.

Owing to the route of the proposed M11 link road, Waltham

Forest council has been amongst those who have lobbied Brussels about the Department of Transport's environmental attitudes. The days are over when large-scale projects could be constructed without a proper examination of their environmental effects. It is genuinely a matter of shame that the European Commission has to be involved to bring the UK government to task about using basic environmental standards.

Yours faithfully,
HUW MORGAN-THOMAS
(Chairman,
Land Strategy Committee,
London Borough of Waltham Forest),
11 High Street, Wanstead, E11,
October 19.

From Mr John Stewart

Sir, The green power game currently being played out between the colourful European Commissioner for the Environment, Carlo Ripa di Meana, and the British government, somewhat unconvincingly protesting its innocence, is in danger of being viewed as yet another example of legalistic Brussels bureaucrats throwing common sense out of the window as they seek to overturn all that is best in Britain.

That would miss the significance of the commissioner's decision to call for a full environmental impact assessment study to be carried out on seven schemes. For over two years now, a number of environmental and transport organisations have been in regular contact with Europe, particularly over the three road schemes.

The commissioner has received over 5,000 letters about Oxford Wood alone. The protest groups were forced to appeal to Europe because of the Department of Transport's careless attitude to environmental matters. The real significance of Ripa di Meana's intervention is that, regardless of the immediate effect on the three road schemes he singles out, the Department of Transport will have to radically revise its policy towards the environment.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEWART,
13 Stockwell Road, SW9,
October 19.

Saving South Downs

From the Chairman of the Countryside Commission

Sir, The proposed Conservation Board for the Sussex Downs is anything but a charade (Valerie Chidson's letter, October 14). A joint committee of the local authorities which can deliver services and exercise delegated powers is an influential and flexible way to achieve better conservation and recreational management in this nationally important countryside. This was demonstrated with great success by the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Authority.

However, we share Mrs Chidson's frustration that the negotiations for

setting up the board have, after a cracking start, slowed to a snail's pace. The commission agreed to play its part — funding 50 per cent of the board's work and nominating one third of the membership — back in April.

We understand all 13 local authorities support the principle of the board. Agreement in the detail should be possible with a little give and take on all sides. We urge all the authorities to redouble their efforts to this end.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JOHNSON, Chairman,
Countryside Commission,
John Dower House, Crescent Place,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
October 17.

Sentencing policy

From Police Constable Andrew Clark

Sir, One frequently hears that the police show an "inadequate response" to crime. Recently at a London crown court I had to attend the trial of a man accused of four offences, including two of burglary. This individual had convictions for over 60 offences over the last 20 years including many burglaries, assault and the frequent theft of and from motor vehicles.

He pleaded guilty to his latest four crimes and was duly awarded a suspended sentence. No order in respect of costs or compensation was made.

Not four hours later, on the same day, I attended the scene of another (unrelated) burglary. A decent, hon-

est hard-working man helped me to compile a list of stolen property from his ransacked home, including a television, music system and even videos of his family.

The pain and distress caused to this man was plain to see; he was visibly shocked and close to tears. I felt totally inadequate, particularly as I was sure that the victim felt I could do nothing for him.

I wonder if anyone can assist me as to what I could have (truthfully) told him, or more importantly, what I should tell the next victim I attempt to reassure.

I am proud to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
A. CLARK,
Peckham Police Station,
177 Peckham High Street, SE15,
October 15.

Artwork copyright

From Mr Geoffrey Adams

Sir, The picket organised by the Association of Illustrators against the sale by Bonhams of illustrators' artwork (report, October 15) drew attention to a problem which was once merely a source of injustice and confusion, but which has now been exacerbated by developing into big business.

Ownership of artwork and ownership of the intangible rights (such as copyright) embodied in it are two separate property rights. They can easily be — and often are — in different hands.

The only certain way of avoiding disputes of the kind highlighted in

your report is for artists to follow the advice which the Chartered Society of Designers, with the Association of Illustrators and others, has for many years given its members, to retain ownership of artwork under the terms of their contract, even when the intellectual property rights are transferred to the client.

Returning artwork to the artist after publication also has the happy side-effect for the publishers of avoiding the cluttering up of their basements.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ADAMS
(Design Protection Adviser),
The Chartered Society of Designers,
29 Bedford Square, WC1,
October 16.

Reason for mufti at Cenotaph

From the Assistant Secretary of the Royal British Legion

Sir, Sergeant-Major Ian Champion of the Corps of Commissioners complains (letter, October 19) that the Royal British Legion would not allow the corps to march in their uniforms with the ex-service contingents at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

Your readers may wish to be reminded that it is the Home Office which is responsible for the conduct of the ceremony and that it asks the Legion to act as its agents in organising the ex-service participation. We have issued over 10,000 tickets this year.

All ex-service men and women who attend are marshalled in groups and columns which generally reflect their service and regimental affiliations. Some groups wear identifying headgear, but it has been the practice over the years for the ex-service contingents not to wear uniform or to carry standards, lest they distract from the act of remembrance.

The pride of the Corps of Commissioners in their uniform is thoroughly understandable, but the service at the Cenotaph is not perhaps the best time to display it and I hope that Sergeant-Major Champion and his colleagues will feel able to join the other 10,000 in mufti.

Yours sincerely,
R. D. HANSCOMB,
Assistant Secretary,
The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, SW1,
October 21.

Charity vouchers

From Mr Robin Williamson

Sir, How can I distinguish between the deserving beggar and the professional scrounger? I would like to give — but cash can be spent equally on food or drugs.

If charities working with the homeless got together and offered "charity vouchers" I would willingly buy a book (£1 vouchers in books of five or ten). Each voucher would be exchangeable for food or practical help by any of the charities taking part, with addresses printed on the ticket — and a free helpline telephone number as well, perhaps.

If I fail to give away my vouchers or my donation is spurned the charities cannot lose, as they have had my money in advance. And when a voucher is exchanged they can offer counselling as well as sustenance.

Christmas would be a good time to start.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WILLIAMSON,
Greenaway, London Road,
Balmords Heath, West Sussex,
October 15.

Coping with flu

From Dr Kenneth Mole

Sir, Your report (Health, October 17) on flu remedies old and new makes no mention of one of the few older ones that seem to me soundly based: whisky and a hot bath.

The fever produced by the flu virus is not the disease itself but a defensive reaction to it. Aspirin, though comforting, hinders by reducing fever, whereas the old remedy of a large whisky followed by a hot bath does the opposite.

Alcohol diverts blood to the whole surface of the body (not just to the nose) where it is heated by bath water to a temperature upsetting to the virus. There follows the "good sweat" usually mistaken for the cure itself. This remedy is not short on comfort either.

Yours,
KENNETH MOLE,
The School, Buckhorn Weston,
Gillingham, Dorset,
October 17.

A sin no more?

From the Reverend John H. S. Burton

Sir, I am surprised that the Archbishop of Canterbury is reported in your columns (October 18) as having "said that anger was a powerful God-given emotion". Since when has it ceased to be one of the seven deadly sins?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. S. BURTON,
45 Westbourne Terrace, W2,
October 18.

Middle-age spread

From Mr Roger Motson

Sir, Mrs Arthy (letter, October 16) is surely, like myself, in the second of the three ages of man (or woman): "terribly young", "our age" and "don't you look well".

Yours,
ROGER MOTSON,
Mulberry Green Farmhouse,
Cofford Green,
Nr Colchester, Essex,
October 18.

From Mrs Caroline Chamberlain

Sir, An alternative to "middle-aged" for someone in their 40s: how about "prime-time"?

Yours, almost in her prime,
CAROLINE CHAMBERLAIN,
The Vicarage,
1 Church Path,
Okehampton, Devon,
October 16.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Mystery lesson unlearnt

MARILYN KINGWILL

THEATRE

Lady Audley's Secret Lynic, Hammersmith



Villainess: Sally Edwards as Lady Audley and Robert Bathurst as George

MARY Braddon was a novelist admired by Bennett, Hardy, and James, who told her in his country way that he "followed you ardently and tracked you close, taking from your hands deep draughts of the happiest of anodynes". But all that adulation came late in her long career. *Lady Audley's Secret* appeared in 1861, when she was in her twenties and had yet to win over the cognoscenti. It was a precociously successful example of the "sensation novel", a best-selling thriller of the type pioneered by Wilkie Collins's *Woman in White*.

Not that you would guess as much from Sylvia Freedman's adaptation. This offers shallow draughts of three different potions. It is partly a stylised and occasionally burlesque melodrama, partly a piece of proto-feminist propaganda, partly an amateurishly assembled detective story — and, wholly, something of a mess.

Freedman's worst mistake is to subtract much of the mystery from the original. Braddon's Lady Audley is pretty and sweet, merry, charming and beguilingly childlike — "wherever she went she seemed to take joy and brightness with her". She is as unlikely a bigamist, arsonist and would-be murderer as Dora in *David Copperfield*. Yet in the novel she is revealed gradually, very gradually, as all those things by her nephew-in-law, a barrister investigating the disappearance of a man who turns out to be her first husband. There is genuine excitement at this point, perhaps as much in an episode of the book's distant descendants, *Morse* or *Wexford*.

But what chance of tension and surprise is there when most of Lady Audley's crimes are evident early on, before her nephew-in-law launches seriously into his enquiry? And to that structural error must be added Sally Edwards's miscalculated playing of the title role. There is no reason why she should dimple, blench and toss golden curls, like Braddon's prototype; but from the start there is something strong and knowing about her. At times her smiles verge on the evil, her laughter on the sadistic. She is, too obviously, the villainess.

That is surprising, because, if she were more the innocent, she might better fulfil the didactic purpose foisted on her. The programme talks of Lady Audley "transgressing prevailing patriarchal assumptions about demure femininity". At one point Michael Simkins's grizzled barrister spurns her upstart, her uppity offences against man, "the head, the discoverer, the defender". But a subtler feminist than Freedman would ditch such plonking stuff and simply show that sentimental figure, the Angel in the House, turned demonic by the social and economic pressures of her day. That would be truer to Braddon, too.

Annie Castledine directs, disappointingly. Sometimes she seems to invite us to laugh at the stilted Victorian speech, sometimes not. Sometimes she aims at realism, sometimes not. She introduces a peripatetic fiddler, a woman in a urban and a maroon gown who drifts through the white muslin curtains of Martin Johns's set playing wistful music but the result is not the strange, charged atmosphere of her recent revival of *Gaslight*. It is a seriously incoherent evening, and a dullish one too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

NEW RELEASES

CHATTANOOGUE (15): Gary Oldman in a Florida pariah hole. Gloomy drama that suffered post-production cuts. With Dennis Hopper, director, Nick, Bruno Kirby, Helen Slater, Director, Nick Underwood. Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915653)

CITY SLICKERS (12): Over-the-top sentimental comedy, with Billy Crystal and Chris Rock solving middle-class problems in a cattle tract. Starring Donald Sutherland, Helen Slater, Director, Nick Underwood. Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915653)

DEKALOG PARTS 5 AND 6 (16): A devastating analysis of a serial killer, murder, plus a voyeur's tale — two of the best from Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Ten Commandments* cycle. Renzo (071-837 8402)

DOC HOLLYWOOD (12): LA-bound doctor (Michael J. Fox) becomes waylaid in the sticks. Silly comedy whose charm quickly fades. A Hollywood satire for British director Michael Cation-Jones. Cannon, Baker Street (071-835 9772)

EDWARD II (18): Riveting reworking of Marlowe's play by Derek Jarman; words and images leap out at the audience. Steven Warford and Andrew Timmins as star-crossed royal lovers. TDA. Screen as the independent Channel. Curzon West End (071-436 4005) Gate (071-727 4043)

MANNEQUIN ON THE MOVE (PG): Unlucky sequel to a 1987 comedy, though William Royle's role as a living doll (Katy Swann) is a little better. Cannon, Baker Street (071-835 9772)

THE RESCUERS DOWN UNDER (U): The star mix from Disney's 1977

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Φ) on release across the country.

THE RESCUERS return to rescue a kidnapped boy. Unimpressive cartoon feature for the family. Director, David Lowery. Miffy, Baker Street (071-835 9772)

CURRENT

AUNT JULIA AND THE SCRIPTWITERS (12): George (Michael J. Fox) becomes waylaid in the sticks. Silly comedy whose charm quickly fades. A Hollywood satire for British director Michael Cation-Jones. Cannon, Baker Street (071-835 9772)

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

Some seats available
Seats at all prices

A BRIGHT LIGHT SHINING: David Ashton's excellent, first full-length play about a lucid visionary experience in a Scottish village. Windmill, W12 (071-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

CURSE OF THE STARRYING GLASS: Held in rural California, reveal of a family's brutal past. Family life, powerful but unimpressive. The Pit, Baker Street, SW1 (071-835 9772) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA: Brian Friel's Oliver Award-winning play set in 1930s Donegal. Theatre, Charing Cross Road, W2 (071-867 1044) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER: Simon Caddis in average, French-style comedy. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070) Mon-Fri, 8pm-10pm

GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY: Cheerful two through fives and sixes. Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (071-835 9772) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

HIPPOCAMPUS: Muted, James Sallis in a play about a man who is a puzzle. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNOLOGICAL DEVIATION: John Donaghy sports a golden eye for the comedy, which is a play about a man who is a puzzle. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

KVETCH: Steven Berkoff's trip into the East-End Jewish psyche. Windmill, W12 (071-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The orchestra and BBC Chorus perform the music of Tchaikovsky's *Baroque* series by opening its concert with a performance of the *Waltz*. In a typically entertaining programme, Oliver Knussen also conducts the Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 10*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

LOMON MOZART PLAYERS: British composer Thomas Linley (1759-78) was a distinguished violinist and composer in his day. But his career was cut short by a disfiguring accident. The play is a portrait of the man and his music. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

BRIGITTE FASSBAENDER: Leading German actress Brigitte Fassbänder gives a portrait of the actress and her life. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

LE TOILE: Phyllida Lloyd's play about the production of *Alceste* at the Opéra de Paris. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

DEVIL: To sink or move downwards, from the Latin *de* down + *vellere* a valley. Caxton: "The stone began to devill in the Weste."

APOLLO VICTORIA: The Apollo Victoria Theatre presents a production of *Starlight Express*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

STARLIGHT EXPRESS: The Apollo Victoria Theatre presents a production of *Starlight Express*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

THE GLORY: The Apollo Victoria Theatre presents a production of *The Glory*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

DON'T MISS IT: The Apollo Victoria Theatre presents a production of *Don't Miss It*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

FORBIDDEN PLANET: The Apollo Victoria Theatre presents a production of *Forbidden Planet*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

IT'S RALPH: The Apollo Victoria Theatre presents a production of *It's Ralph*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

MISS SAJON: The Apollo Victoria Theatre presents a production of *Miss Sajon*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

BLOOD BROTHERS: The Apollo Victoria Theatre presents a production of *Blood Brothers*. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

THEATRES

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HARLEY DAVIDSON AND THE MARLBORO MAN (15): Mickey Rourke and Don Johnson make a bad thing worse. Witty tale of a man who is a puzzle. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

LET HIM HAVE IT (15): An epileptic young man is told to the harem's no. 1. Somber, powerful drama about the 1932 Craig-Bentley case. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

MEETING VENUS (12): Backstage drama with young Tinseltown in Paris, actually observed, but lacking punch. Starring Helen Ansell, Glenn Close, directed by David Putnam. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

THE COMMITMENTS (15): Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and barely played by a largely amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker. Theatrical, Strand, W1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm-10pm

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Dance Doug Elkins/Muscle Voice Riverside/ICA

TWO more Dance Umbrella programmes: four American choreographers, all but one of them unknown here; and extreme reactions where both shows brought delight to some spectators, bitterness to others. For my money, Doug Elkins is the one to keep an eye on.

His works are danced to composite soundtracks, ranging from Handel to David Byrne, via the Chieftains and Cat Stevens, with quotations from such stand-up comics as Lennie Bruce and Ronald Reagan. This is music for the era of television channel-hopping, and can become rather tedious.

The method works well in the opening piece, *Testosterone Divisions*, which introduces the company and Elkins's style in a series of varied episodes. Elkins refuses to take himself, or anyone else, too seriously. Macho athleticism is pushed to extremes and the muscle men keep falling over. There are parodies of modern choreographers and folk dancing; the movement is springy, the double-work exciting, as bodies take

off unexpectedly into leaps that end on shoulder or in a partner's arms. When Elkins does become serious, it can be touching, as in *The Parakeet Variations*, which combine flamenco, snatches of Bizet's *Carmen*, and a touch of James Brown. The eight dancers, led by himself, are quick, strong, co-ordinated, and un-arty. Sometimes you wish Elkins would let his serious moods go on longer, but it is a pleasure to encounter so entertaining a young choreographer.

The three choreographers sharing a programme at the ICA took themselves very seriously, to the point of pretentiousness. The best number was *Horn*, in which David Dorfman and Dan Froot enact an erotic encounter in terms of playing saxophones while pushing or lifting each other around. Dorfman also allowed himself repeatedly to be pushed over by a colleague butting his knees while he told a long pointless story. There was more chatter from David Rousseau, who is too consciously cute for his own good, and kills his serious intentions with that. The show was called *Muscle Voice*, but neither muscles nor voices were at full stretch. I was not alone in finding it tiresome, but others cheered at the end.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Rock Salif Keita Town and Country

JUST before Salif Keita took the stage, somebody to the left of me remarked: "I think he's got a tight band." Although the first guitar introduction was gentle and loose enough, the comment turned out to be prophetic. Rarely have so many crashing accents been hammered home so precisely in such a brief span.

This is not to imply that Keita gave short shrift. His performance was

lengthy, exhaustive and ultimately exhausting. The praise singer from Mali was in fine voice and has clearly found a shape for his music that matches his ideal.

He cuts an odd figure. Wearing a sort of Afro-Venusian hat and dressed in black, his strange albino-like looks were weirdly accentuated by a yellow spotlight during the first song. That, the startling voice and the jerky movements gave him an otherworldly air.

The music has also moved on to a different plane, though whether the new developments pleased long-term fans was open to question. Much of the interaction between musicians

Dance Israel Ballet Royalty, Holborn

HERE is a new home for dance discovered in Kingsway, and it has an ironic history. The Stoll Opera House used to stand on this site, and if that had not been pulled down in the 1950s by developers, it might have become the large theatre for big dance companies which everyone now sees is needed. To get planning approval, the huge new office block that replaced it had to incorporate a small theatre: this was tucked away in the basement and has been only sporadically and half-heartedly used.

Looking for a suitable West End theatre, Rambert Dance Company realised that although it could not take larger companies, the Royalty's first-sized stage and 1,000 raked seats might prove ideal. Rambert opened a week's season there yesterday, and Northern Ballet Theatre will follow on its heels. But the honour of starting this short dance season (the first of many, we must hope) went at the weekend to the Israel Ballet making its British debut.

FOUNDED IN 1967, this company has

already toured widely in North and South America and in Europe. Its director/choreographer Berta Yampolsky chose three of her own works for Sunday's programme, including a workmanlike, fluent setting of Mendelssohn's Second Piano Concerto — perhaps a bit edgy in its ensemble but smooth in solos and duets. A contrasting suite of dances to songs, by turns romantic, dramatic and comic, established its mood effectively and provided neat jokes in an episode inspired by Israeli housewives mopping their tiled floors.

Both these works were capably danced by a team that looked well-coordinated and disciplined, with an English dancer, Wendy Lucking, prominent among both multinational casts. These two works would have been better appreciated, I suspect, if the evening had not opened simply with *Harmonium* in which one of John Adams's dearest scores has led to a vague and woolly choreographic doodle which (like the shallow steps in its decor) leads nowhere. Balanchine's *Four Temperaments*, which is in the current repertoire, would have been a wiser choice, giving more varied roles to the dancers and a yardstick by which to judge them.

JOHN PERCIVAL

was conducted at maximum intensity. The resultant agitation may have been breathtakingly skilful and complex, but it also leaned perilously close to being brash and fussy. Keita's latest album was produced by Weather Report's Joe Zawinul and there were uncomfortable moments when the music recalled a mid-Seventies jazz rock concert.

When the keyboard player abated from his digital fairy bells, the drummer relaxed and the French trumpeter left the stage, then Salif's vocals blazed through with power and feeling. The epic praise song "Mandjou" was one of the more familiar numbers of the night. Taken

at an attractive lode, the mood was unbalanced by a central section that attempted to combine a latter-day Miles Davis facsimile with audience participation.

Returning to the stage when this woefully placed interlude was over, Keita fired off line after line of electrifying singing and the unique devotional spirit of "Mandjou" was reclaimed — but only just. After this, the band returned to its Afro-jazz fusion gymnastics. During the first encore a drum solo was warmly received, though this was where my patience expired.

DAVID TOOP

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

PLAYA

(b) A basin that becomes a shallow lake after heavy rainfall and dries out again in hot weather, is a wet-weather pond. The word is *playa*, as Spain or South America. From the Spanish play a shore. "In the plays were beds of glistening salt and gypsum."

TARPAN

(a) A small extinct wild horse of the steppes of south European Russia, not identical with *Przewalski's horse*, but not of the same species. From the Tatar: "Real tarpanes are not larger than ordinary mules, their colour invariably tan, isabella, or mouse."

MARCESCENT

(a) Withering without falling off, from the Latin *marcescere* the inceptive of *marcescere* to be faint: "The stems of forest species of *Giant Lobelia* are usually bare of marcescent foliage."

DEVALL

(c) To sink or move downwards, from the Latin *de* down + *vallere* a valley. Caxton: "The stone began to devall in the Weste."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is from the

Philippines 1981. White to play

BBC 1

6.00 *Cerefox 6.30 BBC Breakfast News*
9.05 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a discussion on whether the prime minister is what is right for women. With Edwina Currie, MP
9.50 *Hot Chef*. Gary Rhodes prepares Lancashire hot pot
10.00 *News*. regional news and weather 10.05 *Playdays* (r) 10.25 *The Family Nees* (r) 10.35 *Happy Memories*. Cliff Michmore and Wendy Gibson re-awaken viewers' happy memories with music and archive film. The guest is royal-watcher Elizabeth Barron
11.00 *News*. regional news and weather 11.05 *No Kidding*. Family quiz show series (s) 11.30 *People Today*. Kate O'Mara talks to Russell Grant and Mari Maever stalks the high street for designer maternity wear. With news, regional news and weather at 12.00, 12.20 *Pabble M8*. Alan Titchmarsh meets the opera star from Doncaster, Lesley Garrett 12.55 *Regional news and weather*
1.00 *O'Clock News* and weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) (s)
1.50 *Racing From Ascot*. The 2.00, 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40 races
3.50 *Doozy's Duck Truck*. Cartoon (r) 3.55 *Orville and Cuddles*. Cartoon 4.00 *The Chipmunks*. Cartoon (r) 4.35 *Heartbeat*. Tony Hart and Gabrielle Bradshaw with more innovative picture-making ideas. (Ceefax) (s)
5.00 *Newsround* 5.10 *Byker Grove*. Episode one of a new 18-part serial set in and around a Newcastle youth centre. (Ceefax)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland Inside Ulster
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Andrew Harvey and Chris Lowe. Weather
6.30 *Regional News*. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 *Wogan*. Terry, in New York, meets Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis (s)



The appliance of German science: Judith Hann (7.30pm)

7.30 *Tomorrow's World* in Berlin.
 ● *CHOICE*. Although the invention by the Germans of a sensor that is jammed into a lump of cake mix and tells the cook when the cake is cooked is not the most advanced in British research institutions, other scientific advances described in this edition of *Tomorrow's World* will, at the very least, cause some apprehensive gnawing of lips. One useful new development is the production of bacteria that eat up waste paper and wood and leave a liquid that can then be used as compost. Another new idea threatens obsolescence for the table-top architectural model. Rebuilding slabs seen on an underground station in which nobody has set foot for 30 years. Judith Hann looks at it without so much as stepping outside the studio. She dons special visor and glove, points a finger at the computer screen and down the escalator she goes, dodging pillars along the platforms before vanishing into the dark tunnel. And all in glorious 3-D. (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Spotlight

8.00 *Specials*. Programme five of the 12-part drama series following the fortunes of five special constables from different walks of life. (Ceefax) (s)
8.50 *Points of View* presented by Anne Robinson
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather

9.30 *Inside Story: Suicide Killers*.
 ● *CHOICE*. There is hardly a moment in Stephen Lambert's film about the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka, arguably the world's most committed and ruthless guerrillas, when their own claim to this distinction is not vividly illustrated. All of them, men and women, wear cyanide capsule necklaces which they must make use of, if captured. Six hundred have already obeyed the order. Nothing must subvert their purpose. Smoking, alcohol, sex, gambling: all are forbidden. A woman fighter had both arms blown off by a grenade. She lights on, leading her life with her legs, and using them to throw her bombs. Mothers rejoice when their sons are killed in the cause of Tamil independence. But there is one powerful image in *Suicide Killers* that you might miss in the unlikely event of your taking your eyes off the screen. The handles on the Tamil children's seesaws are shaped like machine guns. (Ceefax)
10.20 *Sportnight* introduced by Desmond Lynam. Football: highlights of tonight's UEFA cup, second round, first leg match between the French side Auxerre and Liverpool. Snooker: Tony Morrison meets WBO heavyweight champion Ray Mercer in Atlantic City. Snooker: quarter-final action in the Rothmans grand prix at the Hexagon, Reading 12.20am *Weather*

BBC 2

8.00 *News*
8.15 *Westminster*
9.00 *Daytime on Two*. It Doesn't Have to Hurt 9.10 What is Believing? 9.30 *Dies Tempus* 9.45 *You and Me* 10.00 *Thinkabout Science* 10.15 *Search Out Science* 10.35 *Viewers' reactions* to schools programmes 10.40 *Around Scotland*: the Clearances 11.00 *Worlds and Pictures* 11.15 The pros and cons of the fast food industry 11.35 *Language* in the national curriculum 12.05 The long battle for the political equality of the sexes 12.30 *Pastimes* that pay 12.55 *Spanish* for beginners 1.20 *Postman Pat* 1.30 *Crystal Tipps* and *Alister* 1.40 *Showbiz* technology
2.00 *News* and weather followed by *You and Me*
2.15 *Snooker*. Live coverage of quarter-final action in the Rothmans grand prix from the Hexagon, Reading, introduced by David Vine. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Kinsman, Clive Everton, Ray Edwards, John Spencer, John Virgo and Eddie Charlton. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50
3.25 *A Question of Sport*. A repeat of yesterday's edition. Joining Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are Peter Bestley, Fatima Whitbread, Carl Hooper and David Seaman. (Ceefax) (s)
5.55 *Football*. Liverpool in Europe. Live coverage of the UEFA cup, second round, first leg match between the French division one side Auxerre and Liverpool, introduced by Desmond Lynam. The commentator is Barry Davies with comment from Alan Hansen



Provoking novel ideas: the late writer Angus Wilson (8.10pm)

8.10 *Bookmark*: Angus Wilson - Skating on Thin Ice.
 ● *CHOICE*. It will be gratifying, though fanciful, to think that the decision to re-publish all Wilson's best-known fiction next year is the result of *Bookmark*'s initiative in casting viewers in general and the literary world in particular for so shamefully neglecting his work. The plastic taint of the matter is that Nadia Hegger brings making her biographical film when Wilson was still physically with us, though only just. *Skating on Thin Ice* has, therefore, become a memorial to him. At the same time it wonders, aloud and visually, how it came about that, in the words of *Bookmark* editor Nigel Williams who tonight makes a rare appearance in front of the camera, the fate of Wilson's novels had something in common with other manifestations of the New Philistinism like the burning of books, and the pronouncement of death threats against writers with whom not everyone agrees
9.00 *M*A*S*H*. More mayhem with the medics of the 4077th. Tonight Hot Lips is on tenterhooks as she looks forward to a birthday date with a general in Tokyo. But the hapless Klinger gets the full force of Hot Lips's fury when the jeep in which he is driving her to the airport breaks down. And Hawkeye? He plays midwife to a sharpshooter (r)
9.25 *The Men's Room*. The final episode of the drama based on Ann Oakley's best-selling novel. Although they now live together Charity turns down Mark's numerous marriage proposals which is just as well as Mark's roving eye alights on Tessa, daughter of a colleague who is half his age and into motherhood and marriage. Starring Hamlet Walter, Bill Nighy and Kate Hardie. (Ceefax)
10.20 *Fifth Column*. A personal opinion on a subject of current interest
10.30 *Newsnight* with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 *The Late Show*. Martin Amis talks to Norman Mailer about Mailer's latest novel *Harlot's Ghost* (s)
11.55 *Weather*

BBC 4

6.00 *TV-am*
9.25 *Jeopardy!* Quiz game show in which Steve Jones provides the answers and the contestants try to work out the questions 9.55 *Thames News* and weather
10.00 *The Time 4.40*. The Place. John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject
10.40 *This Morning*. Family magazine series presented by the husband and wife team of Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes advice from "agony aunt" Denise Robertson. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather

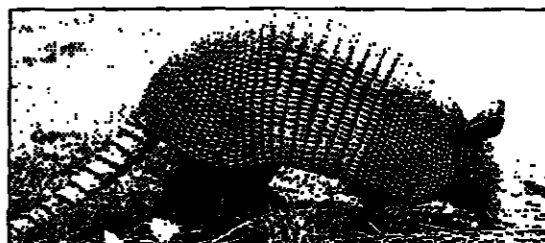


Fun in the box: a new series with the Allstars team (12.10pm)

12.10 *Allstars*. Young children's entertainment (s)
12.30 *News* with John Suchet. (Oracle) *Weather* 1.10 *Thames News* and weather
1.20 *Home and Away*. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) 1.50 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (s)
2.20 *Take the High Road*. Soap set in the Highlands 2.50 *Give Us a Clue*. Celebrity charades hosted by Michael Parkinson. Today the regular team captains - Lionel Blair and Loza Goddard, are joined by Danny Baker, Keith Chegwin, Craig Douglas, Eve Ferrel, Nerys Hughes and Rula Lenska (s)
3.15 *ITN News* headlines 3.20 *Thames News* headlines 3.25 *The Young Doctors*. Drama series set in a large Australian city hospital 3.55 *Grobbage* (s) 4.15 *Rolf's Cartoon Club*. Rolf Harris introduces *Cart and Mouse*, a short set in a retirement home for elderly cartoon characters 4.40 *Time*. The second of a four-part science fiction adventure series. Dr BB and Ben first themselves in the middle of the English civil war and are captured by Roundheads. Starring Haydn Gwynn and Kenneth Hall
5.10 *Blockbusters*. General knowledge game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes
5.40 *News* with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) *Weather*
5.55 *Thames Help*. Jackie Spradley with details of *Jumpok*, a cheap and flexible crèche set up by a group of women in Southwark
6.00 *Home and Away* (r). (Oracle)
6.30 *Thames News*. (Ceefax)
7.00 *This is Your Life*. Michael Aspel springs a surprise on another unsuspecting worthy (s)
7.30 *Coronation Street*. (Oracle)
8.00 *Des O'Connor Tonight*. The entertainer's guests this week include Frankie Howard, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Carl Davis and Paul Young (s)
9.00 *The European Match*. Live coverage of the European cup winners' cup match in Madrid between Atletico Madrid and the champions, Manchester United. Introduced by Elio Wolsey with commentary by Alan Perry and analysis from Denis Law and Kevin Keegan. The second half is after the news
9.50 *News* with Trevor McDonald and Alastair Stewart. (Oracle) *Weather* followed by regional news and weather
10.00 *approx* *The European Match*. Live second half coverage of the Atletico Madrid/Manchester United match. Followed by highlights of the Benfica v Arsenal game in Lisbon; and the FC Porto v Tottenham Hotspur match in London
11.30 *Film: Brammigan* (1975) starring John Wayne and Richard Attenborough. A lighthearted thriller about an unorthodox Chicago policeman who rubs up the by-the-book boys of Scotland Yard when he arrives in London on the trail of an American villain. Good use of locations. Directed by Douglas Hickox
1.30am *The Twilight Zone*. *Button Button* and *The Beacon*, two tales of the supernatural
2.15 *America's Top Ten* (s)
2.40 *Videofashion*. The latest news from the world of style
3.10 *Quiz Night*. Inter pub and club general knowledge competition
3.40 *Books By My Bedside*. The current reading matter of short story writer Jane Gardam
4.10 *Motorport Special*. Action from the British sidecar motocross and trials
4.40 *Fifty Years On* (b/w). Archive newscast from 1941
5.00 *Witness to Survival*. Two more stories of courage displayed by ordinary members of the public
5.30 *ITN Evening News* with Tim Neilson. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 *Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools*
12.00 *The Parliament Programme* presented by Nicholas Owen
12.30 *Business Daily*. News from the world's money markets
1.00 *Sesame Street*. Pre-school learning series
2.00 *Faith, Hope and Charity*. The second of a ten-part series on the world's leading beliefs. This week Ronald Eys explores the idea of humanity in the light of two different views on creation - one from Rabbi Jeremy Rosen, the other by Methair Krishnamurti, a Hindu (s)
2.30 *Film: Stanley and Livingstone* (1939, b/w) starring Spencer Tracy and Cedric Hardwicke. The story of the 19th century American newspaperman who decides to go to Africa and search for the missionary-explorer David Livingstone of whom no news has been heard for years. Directed by Henry King
4.20 *Barbed Wire* (1951). A Mr Magoo cartoon
4.30 *Fifteen-to-One*. Quick-fire general knowledge quiz (s)
5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Director John Singleton and actor Ice Cube discuss their film *Boyz n the Hood* which deals with the plight of black men in the United States. Older black Americans, a psychologist and a teacher join in the discussion with their own views on why young black men in America face a future of despair and violence
5.55 *Willie the Wisp*. Cartoon set in a magical forest (r)
6.00 *Kate and Allie*. Comedy series starring Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin as divorced sisters sharing single parenthood and a Greenwich Village home
6.30 *Tonight with Jonathan Ross*. The guest is singer, celebrity and Oscar-winning actress, Cher (s)
7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi. (Teletext) *Weather*
7.50 *Party Political Comment* from a Conservative party politician
8.00 *Brookside*. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext)



Burrowing northwards: the nine-banded armadillo (8.30pm)

8.30 *Poor Man's Pig*. A survival nature documentary about the nine-banded armadillo, a comparatively recent addition to the wildlife of North America. Narrated by Andrew Sachs (r)
9.00 *Dispatches*.
 ● *CHOICE*. The least surprising conclusion reached by this investigation into what has gone wrong with our secondary schools system is that the answers lie as much in the past as in the present. No harm, though, in making the point as forcefully as David Miller's film does. Given time, and with the right people offering the right advice, even deep-rooted mistakes can be weeded out. *Dispatches* has assembled a large company of what look and sound like these "right people" - university department heads and school headmasters, school inspectors, pupils past and present, and their parents, from both the UK and the Continent. Conventional investigation practice? *Dispatches* does not know the meaning of the words. It asks a team of education experts to act exactly like a royal commission, paying special attention to comparative technical and vocational training in the UK, the Netherlands, and Germany. Its recommendations will be considered by a panel of politicians in *Every Child in Britain*, at 11.00pm
9.45 *Travelog Shorts*. Robert Elms visits the Spanish seaside resort of San Sebastian (r) (s)
10.00 *The Golden Girls*. Delicious comedy about four Miami matrons sharing a home. (Teletext) (s)
10.30 *Paul Merton* - The Series. More comedy from the po-faced funnyman (s)
11.00 *Every Child in Britain*. A follow-up to tonight's *Dispatches*. A discussion on education between representatives of the three main political parties - MPs Tim Eggar, Jack Straw and Matthew Taylor - and Neville Postlethwaite, Hilary Steadman and Professors A.H. Halsey, Sigmund Prais and Alan Smithers
12.00 *Tonight with Jonathan Ross*. A repeat of the programme shown at 6.30 (s)
12.30am *Film: Chori Chori* (1956, b/w). The season of Indian love stories continues with this lighthearted tale of a rich girl who falls for a poor boy. Starring the popular Raj Kapoor and Nargis. Directed by Anant Thekuri. In Hindi with English subtitles. Ends at 3.20

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 *Anglia News*
BORDER
 As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 *Sons and Daughters* 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* 6.00 *Lookand Watch* 6.30-6.55 *Home and Away* 6.55-7.00 *Blockbusters*
CELTIC
 As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 *Sons and Daughters* 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* 6.00 *Lookand Watch* 6.30-6.55 *Home and Away* 6.55-7.00 *Blockbusters*
CENTRAL
 As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 *Central News* 11.30 *Night Heat* 12.25 *Film: Danger Route* (Richard Gere, Michael Douglas, 15 *Film: No Tracer* (Hugh Grant, 15 *Film: Shredan*) 3.40 *Special Screen* 4.30-5.00 *Central Journal* 9.1
GRAMPIAN
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Home and Away* 6.00 *Lookand Watch* 6.30-6.55 *Home and Away* 6.55-7.00 *Blockbusters* 9.00 *The Best of Country in Concert* 10.05 *Megamix* 11.00 *Night Heat* 12.25 *Film: Danger Route* (Richard Gere, Michael Douglas, 15 *Film: No Tracer* (Hugh Grant, 15 *Film: Shredan*) 3.40 *Special Screen* 4.30-5.00 *Central Journal* 9.1
GRANDPRIX
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Home and Away* 6.00 *Lookand Watch* 6.30-6.55 *Home and Away* 6.55-7.00 *Blockbusters* 9.00 *The Best of Country in Concert* 10.05 *Megamix* 11.00 *Night Heat* 12.25 *Film: Danger Route* (Richard Gere, Michael Douglas, 15 *Film: No Tracer* (Hugh Grant, 15 *Film: Shredan*) 3.40 *Special Screen* 4.30-5.00 *Central Journal* 9.1

RADIO 3

6.55am *Weather*. News Headlines
7.00 *Morning Concert*. Ravel (Maurice); Saint-Saëns (Septet in E flat)
7.30 *News*
7.35 *Morning Concert* (cont): Schubert (Incidental music, Rosamunde); Haydn (String Quartet in D, Op 71 No 2); Grieg (Hobgoblin Suite, Op 40)
8.30 *News*
8.35 *Composers of the Week* - Arnold and Beethoven
 William Walton's *Concerto for Piano and Strings* (Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra under Tudor Williams, with the Tasmanian and Simon Campion, piano); Sir English Lyrics (Scottish Baroque Ensemble under Friedman); *Two Epigrams* for Edith Sitwell (Alan Wicks, organ); *Symphonic Voices* (Simon Aldrich, choir under Aldrich)
9.35 *Midweek Concert*, with Susan Sharpe, Buxtehude (Cantata Domino, Solists, Barmen-Katholik); Dusek (Sonata in E flat, Ian Hobson, piano); Saint-Saëns (Cantata Sonnets, Op 107, Geneva de Peyer, Greenwich Pym); Martucci (Symphony No 1 in D minor, Pharamond under d'Avallio); Boccherini (String Quartet in C, Op 30 No 6; Boccherini Quartet); Rawsthorne (Cello Sonata, John Lloyd Webber, John McCabe, piano); Schumann (Der Nussbaum, Mythen Peter Schreier, tenor, Christoph Eschenbach, piano); Langridge, tenor, Roger Vignoles, piano; Widor (Toccata, Symphony No 5, Marie-Claire Alain, organ)
2.00 *BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra* under Jerzy Maksymiuk performs Edward Elgar (Violin), Ravel (Piano Concerto in G, Gun Wood, piano); Prokofiev (Symphony No 1 in D, Classical) (r)
2.45pm *Japan Season*: Snapshot - Not Quite Home. Simon Grove meets a family of the Bakumatsu and examines the problems faced by these outcasts from Japan's supposedly classless society
1.00 *News*
1.05 *Japan Season*: Concert Hall. Live from Broadcasting House, the Mike, accordion, plays *Scarlatti* (Three Sonatas); *Prokofiev* (Symphony No 1 in D, Classical); *Grieg* (Lyrical Pieces -

RADIO 4

6.55am *Shipping Forecast* 6.55 *News*
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- FOCUS: ZIMBABWE 33
- LAW REPORT 34
- SPORT 34-38

THE TIMES BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23 1991

Wolseley profits drop to £80m

PRE-TAX profits down from a record £120.7 million to £80.3 million in the year to end-July at Wolseley, the builders' and plumbers' merchant, were accompanied by a warning from Jeremy Lancaster, the chairman and chief executive, that there was no sign of an upturn on either side of the Atlantic.

The pre-tax figure includes an £11.2 million provision for the cost of restructuring, including 1,800 redundancies, or about 10 per cent of the workforce, over the year. Shareholders will not suffer as dividends are being held, a final of 9.0p making a 12.1p total, cutting dividend cover from three to less than twice.

Mr Lancaster said: "At present, we see no grounds for optimism at all. Like anyone else, we hope that things will improve in the spring, but in the UK things are, if anything, worse than they were last year."

Wolseley was holding up better than much of the building materials industry because its plumbing centres in Britain, which saw sales only marginally down on the previous year, relied on the more buoyant repair and maintenance sector than on the housebuilding industry.

Tempos, page 26

McKechie dip

McKechie's pre-tax profits fell from £28.1 million to £20.5 million in the year to end-July. Earnings per share slipped from 23.8p to 17.6p but the total dividend is held at 14.75p with an unchanged final of 9.75p. McKechie gave warning that no recovery in demand for its plastic components and household products was expected in the current year. Tempos, page 26

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7125 (-0.0082)
German mark 2.9061 (-0.0002)
Exchange index 90.3 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1963.4 (-14.8)
FT-SE 100 2559.5 (-16.2)

New York Dow Jones 3057.69 (-2.69)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 24954.66 (-62.15)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Softhys 682p (+63p)
Elec Data Process 232p (+12p)
Unilever 807p (+12p)
Nu-Swift 384p (+14p)
Antologast 805p (+10p)
Barlow Rand 829p (+55p)
Capita Group 233p (+10p)
Costan Group 683p (+12p)
Ranger 487p (+10p)
News Corp 507p (+20p)
FR Group 176p (+10p)
FALLS:
Pentammon 271p (-3p)
Wilson Bowden 567p (-20p)
Hammerson 'A' 278p (-3p)
Abbey National 485p (-3p)
ADT 971p (-13p)
Reuters 745p (-12p)
Smithline Beeston 745p (-12p)
Pressac 85p (-10p)
Lloyds 385p (-9p)
Closing Prices...Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4-10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury bills 5.07-5.05%
30-year bonds 10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7155
£ DM2.9061
£ Sfr2.5389
£ FF9.1910
£ Yen224.90
£ Index34.8
ECU10.70432
ECU1.419845
SDR1.253773
London forax market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$382.30 pm \$382.35
close \$382.60-383.10 (\$211.20-211.70)
New York:
Comex \$384.85-385.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) \$22.65 bbl (\$22.90)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.6 September (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Underlying trade deficit stuck

Fall in exports adds to gloom over economy

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP drop in visible exports in September reinforced City fears that exports have started to falter and will not provide the boost to recovery that had been widely forecast.

The disappointing export figures were contained in the latest official data, which showed the deficit on visible trade narrowing from £796 million in August to £729 million last month.

The underlying picture, however, was that the improvement seen earlier this year has come to an end, or that the situation is already worsening.

The trade figures came the

day after provisional retail sales figures that showed no rebound in September from the 1.2 per cent fall in August, making government hopes of a consumer-led recovery appear ill-founded.

Visible exports fell 4.5 per cent in September to £8.65 billion, reflecting a broad-based decline, including lower sales of cars abroad.

Imports were 4.8 per cent down at £9.37 billion, a slowdown that suggests there is little evidence of a rise in domestic demand sucking in imported goods.

Trade in oil, which has been affected by wild swings in North Sea output since last year, showed a surplus of £304

million, over £150 million up on August.

The better guide to underlying trade, the balance excluding oil and such erratic items as aircraft and diamonds, indicated little change, with the deficit widening fractionally to £1.14 billion, the level at which it had been stuck for the past three months.

The Central Statistical Office spoke of "no discernible trend" in the trade balance in recent months, which means the government statisticians have no idea whether further progress can be made in reducing the deficit.

The current account balance, which includes a projected £200 million surplus on such invisible items as banking, insurance and shipping, showed a deficit narrowing to £529 million from August's £596 million, which had been revised from an initial £543 million.

On present performance, the Budget forecast of a £6 billion current account deficit is likely to be overshoot. After the first nine months, the deficit has reached almost £5 billion.

City economists have been surprised by the stubbornness of the underlying trade deficit, given the depth of the recession. Some fear recovery will make the deficit balloon again, possibly putting the pound under pressure in the run-up to next year's general election.

Others, however, are convinced that the climb out of recession will be so slow that it will not necessarily inflict much damage on the trade front.

The Treasury sought to underline the erratic nature of the monthly figures, but the quarterly picture was hardly one the government will welcome.

Exports were 1.5 per cent lower in the third quarter than in the second. Imports were also 1.5 per cent higher.

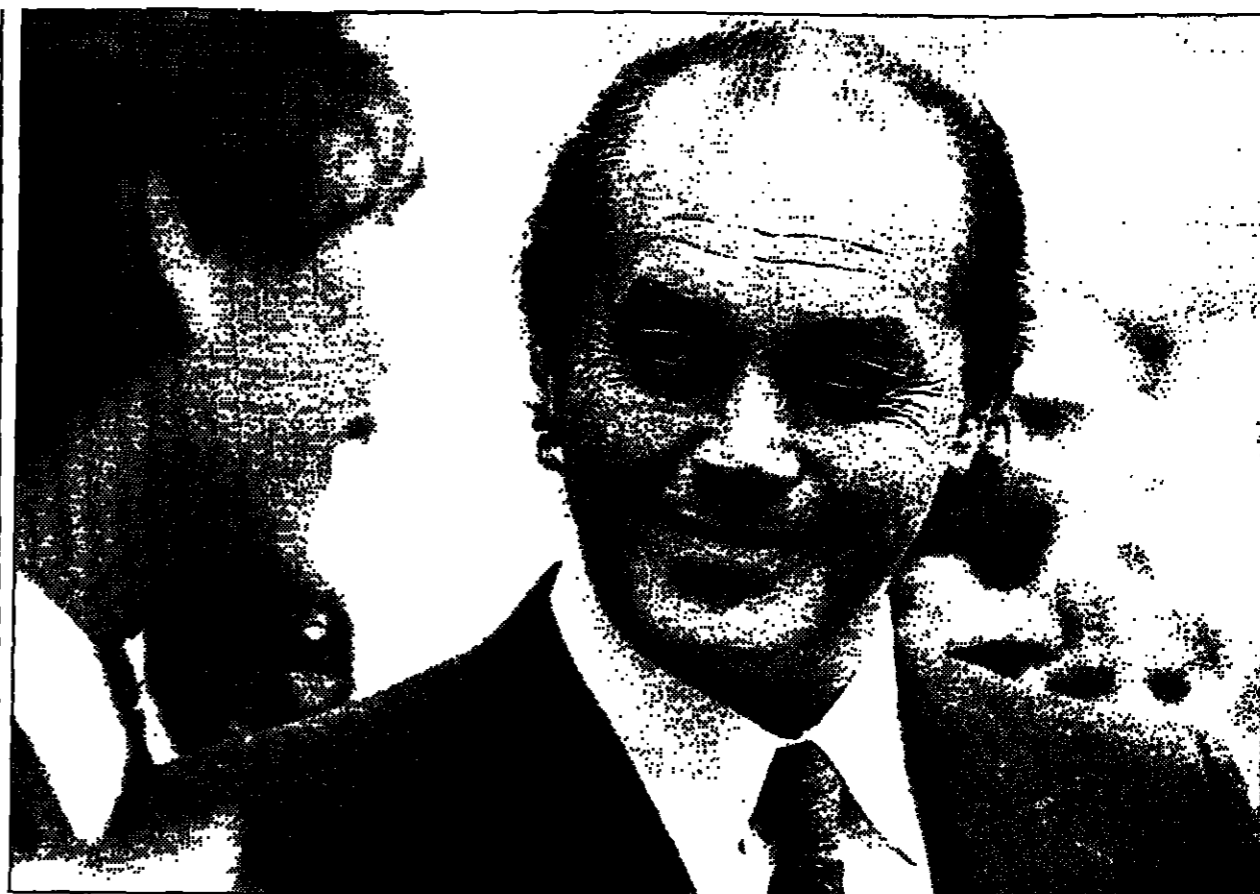
Gwyn Hache, economist at James Capel, said export performance was disappointing after the good period earlier in the year. "Clearly, the improvement has come to an end, or may be deteriorating."

The slowdown in continental Europe, especially Germany, is expected to depress demand in key markets, giving British exports little scope for making up lost ground.

The financial markets hardly reacted to the trade figures, although some forecasters believe the City will become increasingly sensitive to the data, after the doubling of the current account deficit to £1.5 billion in the third quarter.

The previous quarter saw a £99 million current account surplus in June, the only month this year when it has been out of the red.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow trade secretary, said the deterioration in manufacturing trade to a deficit of £398 million in September was "alarming" and strengthened the demand from Labour and the Confederation of British Industry for a new manufacturing policy.



Accused of stealing £155 million: Asil Nadir after appearing at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday

Asil Nadir faces 58 more charges

By OUR CITY STAFF

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck, the collapsed fresh fruit, hotels and electronics group, now stands accused of stealing £155 million from his company after he was charged yesterday with a further 58 counts of theft worth £130 million.

The Turkish Cypriot businessman was charged by Metropolitan Police officers attached to the Serious Fraud Office after he went to Holborn police station by arrangement to answer further questions. Mr Nadir was kept in custody until an afternoon hearing at Bow Street magistrates' court.

All the new charges relate to the period between August 14, 1987, and August 6, 1990. Trading in Polly Peck shares was suspended in September last year, after the stock lost more than half its value after a Serious Fraud Office raid on South Audley Management, a company associated with the Nadir family.

Administrators were appointed to Polly Peck, which has debts of £1.2 billion, and Mr Nadir was originally arrested in December at Heathrow airport, on his return from Turkey and charged with 18 counts of theft worth £25 million.

The chairman, who remains on £3.5 million bail, was remanded to appear on November 7 at Bow Street. Yesterday, the magistrate Sir David Hopkin warned Mr Nadir that the people providing £1.5 million sureties would have to be told of the new charges because of their gravity. Mr Nadir also deposited £2 million with his solicitors as part of the bail agreement.

The new charges cast doubt on whether the Serious Fraud Office will be ready to transfer the case to a Crown Court next month. Mr Nadir's lawyers have already registered their concern about delaying the transfer until the new year.

After the hearing, Mr Nadir's solicitor, Peter Knight of Vizards, said: "These additional charges do not raise any new issues and relate to the same course of dealing which is the subject of the earlier charges."

Enquiry launched into sale of BA engine plant

By JOHN WINDER AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE Office of Fair Trading has begun an enquiry into the £272 million purchase by America's General Electric of British Airways' engine overhaul facility at Treforest, near Cardiff.

The enquiry was begun after protests by Rolls-Royce that the purchase would give GE control over maintenance work on its competitors' en-

gines. Analysts have also suggested that GE paid a remarkably high price for the facility, in a deal that coincided with a decision by BA to abandon its long-standing allegiance to Rolls-Royce, and place a £400 million engine order with GE instead.

BA's decision to buy the GE90 engine, which is still on the drawing board, to power

its Boeing 777s in preference to Rolls' updated Trent, was a blow for Rolls. All Nippon Airways said BA's apparent lack of confidence in the Rolls engine had contributed to its rejection of Trent in favour of American engines from Pratt & Whitney for its 777s.

Lord Reay, junior industry and technology minister, announced the OFT enquiry during a debate in the House of Lords yesterday.

Lord Tombs, the chairman of Rolls, told the House that BA's sale of the Treforest facility gave control of the overhaul of competitors' engines to GE, and that was without precedent in the airline industry.

Labour peers protested that the government could not allow firms such as Rolls-Royce to be disregarded by "our national airline". The government could not shuffle off the sale of Treforest to the OFT, but must take a view in the national interest of Britain. Lord Reay replied that British Airways was a private company and the selection of engines was a commercial matter for them.

Borrie wants new laws to protect consumers

NEW laws are needed to stop businesses taking advantage of the ignorance, inexperience or trust of some consumers, Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, said yesterday (Lindsay Cook writes).

Speaking at a trading malpractices conference, Sir Gordon said a new integrated package of laws was necessary to act as a safety net to catch malpractices that have not been caught by the existing patchwork of laws.

Sir Gordon wants to extend

the scope of the Fair Trading Act 1973 to cover "misleading, deceptive and unconscionable" practices. The changes were needed to prosecute unscrupulous traders who currently remained free to engage in trading practices which were indefensible.

Other practices targeted include the high pressure selling of timeshare holidays, vacuum cleaners, and double glazing, and plumbers and locksmiths charging inflated call-out fees in emergencies.

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'Probably the world's best merger'

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

HAILING it as "probably the best merger in the world", Allied-Lyons joined forces with Carlsberg in a £510 million deal yesterday but immediately ran into criticism from the unions and the Labour party, who said it was probably the worst deal for the consumer.

Allied and Carlsberg are merging their brewing interests in a 50/50 joint venture that will give the new company, Carlsberg-Tetley, an 18 per cent share of the beer market in Britain and make Allied less vulnerable to takeover.

Doug Henderson, Labour's spokesman on the brewing industry, called for an Office of Fair Trading investigation. He said: "Concentration of ownership cannot be good news for the drinker who wants a pint at an affordable price."

Mark Fisher, the GMB's national officer for the industry, said: "Any merger between Allied-Lyons and Carlsberg would almost certainly reduce

consumer choice and lead to large price increases."

Roy Moss, a director of Allied-Lyons and chairman and chief executive of Allied Breweries, says, however, that customers entering an Allied pub will now be able to choose from Carlsberg, Skol and Tuborg in addition to Tetley Bitter, Burton Ale, Castlemeane XXXX and Löwenbrau when ordering a pint.

Graeme Eadie, drinks analyst at County NatWest, said the deal was excellent for Allied. "It catapults Allied from being in a weak position in brewing into a position of strength."

Allied will contribute assets of £265 million, net of £135 million of debt that will be transferred to the joint venture. Carlsberg will contribute £245 million of net assets. The transfer of the debt would reduce Allied-Lyons' gearing from 70 per cent to 63 per cent.

Both companies are bringing their beer production, distribution and wholesale businesses to the joint venture but

Allied's pubs will remain wholly owned by Allied-Lyons. Carlsberg-Tetley will supply the Allied pubs and will wholesale Allied's wines and spirits. Profits from Allied's contribution to the joint venture were £58 million last year and from Carlsberg they were £44 million.

Mr Moss said some rationalisation would be necessary but he could not put a figure on how many jobs would be lost. The new company will start operating in March 1992, assuming clearance from the trade department.

There has been speculation about a bid for Allied-Lyons in recent months, but Mr Moss said that although the deal has yet to be finalised, Carlsberg was likely to be given an option to acquire the new company in the event of a bid for Allied. Carlsberg, which is quoted in Denmark and capitalised at £2 billion, said it had no plans to take a stake in Allied-Lyons but the deal would not preclude it from doing so. Allied's shares closed 2p ahead at 607p.



Lane: Cambridge tutor

Anglo bid counters offer

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ANGLO-Scandinavian Investment Trust has taken the novel action of effectively bidding for itself to fight off a hostile bid from Scottish Cities.

Anglo's board is supporting an offer from ASIT, a new investment trust formed solely for the offer by Olliff & Partners, Anglo's adviser. The bid offers cash or shares for the trust equal to 100 per cent of the trust's net assets, or 102p a share.

ASIT is offering five ordinary shares and three new zero dividend preference shares in Anglo. Resources for the cash alternative is limited to £18.6 million.

The bid substantially beats the offer from Scottish Cities of 90p in shares or 82p in cash. If it succeeds, ASIT will operate in exactly the same way as Anglo, which currently controls large stakes in Scottish Cities and two related investment trusts. The new trust, like the old, will be managed by SG Investment Management, headed by Stefan Gadd, former head of Samuel Montagu.

ASIT will have a fixed life of nine and three-quarter years. At its close, holders of the zero dividend shares will receive a preferential share of the capital.

De la Rue seeks £160m to pay for Swedish deal

By JONATHAN PRYNN

DE LA RUE, the security and banknote printing group, has received an enthusiastic response to its £160.3 million one-for-three rights issue which has been launched to finance an acquisition in Sweden.

The move comes when there is increasing reluctance to underwrite issues after the hostile reception given to the recent Hillsdown Holdings, Asda and British Aerospace cash calls.

Shares in De la Rue dropped only 4p to 444p on news of the rights, compared with an issue price of 350p, a 21 per cent discount. Analysts said they expected a healthy take up of the new shares.

The funds will be used for the £94.7 million purchase of Inter Innovation, a Swedish currency handling and security products company that is quoted on the Stockholm stock exchange.

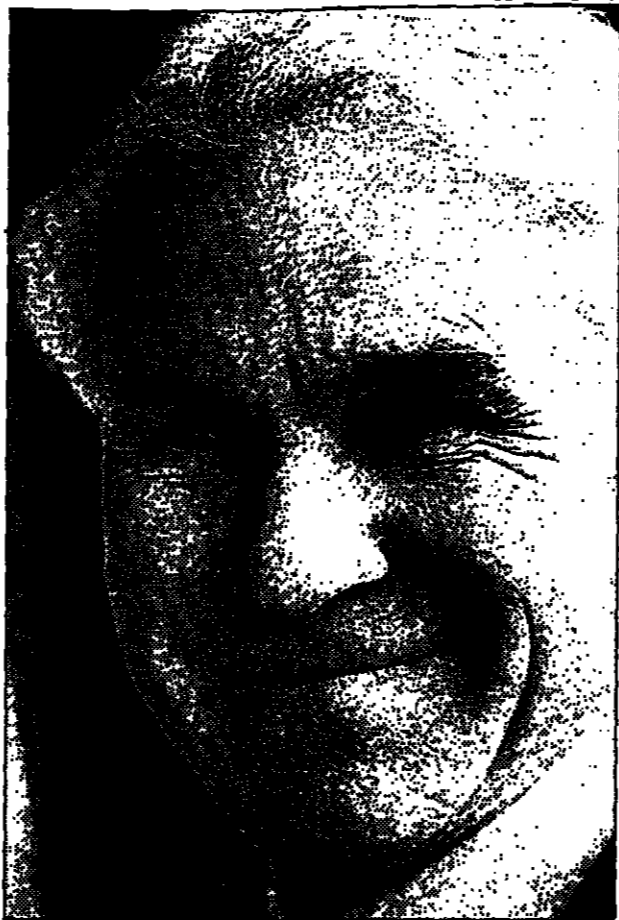
Jeremy Marshall, chief executive of De la Rue, said that the acquisition would "enhance the existing international market penetration of our core payments system division and allow us to exploit the growing demand for technical innovation in the banking industry worldwide."

Inter is controlled by Leif Lundblad, its founder, who has accepted the offer. Mr Lundblad will receive a £1 million-a-year consultancy fee for the next five years.

Inter made pre-tax profits of SKr104.3 million (£9.8 million) in the year to end-December and had net assets of SKr361.9 million. However, profits in the first half were only SKr38.4 million and the company has given warning that profits will not reach the 1990 level. The exit price/earnings ratio is 14 times historic earnings but about 18 times prospective earnings for 1991.

De la Rue said that the acquisition would be earnings enhancing in the first full year after the acquisition.

De la Rue also announced its first-half figures with pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September up 10 per cent to £31.1 million. The interim dividend is up 8 per cent to 3.5p and the company has said that it intends to pay a final dividend of not less than 11.5p, making a total of 15p, a 9 per cent improvement. Current trading is said to be in line with expectations.



Purchase pleases: Jeremy Marshall of De la Rue

Tempos, page 26

Japan lifts sanctions against SA

By JON ASHWORTH

SOUTH Africa's economic prospects were boosted yesterday with the news that Japan is to drop all sanctions against the country and a Japanese company has signed a five-year contract to import 20 million tons of iron ore.

The news was welcomed by South African trade sources but black opposition groups described it as "premature". Shares in Iscor, the state iron and steel corporation, soared in Johannesburg. Japan's move comes a day after Commonwealth leaders agreed to a phased lifting of sanctions against South Africa. Japan has lifted restrictions on landing rights and iron and steel products.

In the deal with Nippon Steel, the Sishen-Saldanha iron ore scheme will export the bulk of the ore through Saldanha Bay on SA's west coast.

Kent Durr, South Africa's ambassador to London, said Japan was a valued and long-standing trading partner. He said the renewed links could pave the way for joint Japanese-South African projects in central and east Africa.

Figures published this week show that the five main importers of South African goods last year were Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Mozambique and Malawi.

Trust receipts likely to outstrip societies

THE Unit Trust Association expects net receipts for the industry to have been higher than those of building societies for the second month running in September. Unit trusts attracted £895 million during the month, reduced to £358 million after redemptions were taken into account.

The value of funds under management fell slightly during September from £58.6 billion to £58.3 billion. During the month, the number of unitholder accounts fell 25,000 to 4.49 million. Sales of tax-free personal equity plans invested in unit trusts during the three quarter totalled £169 million, an increase of 48 per cent on the same quarter of last year. In the year to end-September, net new investment in unit trusts totalled £2.5 billion, compared with an outflow of £32 million last time. The building societies will publish their figures this week.

UDO slips to £9.03m

DIFFICULT trading conditions at UDO Holdings, the drawing office equipment and reprographic services business, saw pre-tax profits fall to £9.03 million (£10.36 million) in the year to end-July. The year's dividend is 5.75p (4.59p) with a final of 4.13p (3.24p). Turnover was £55.8 million (£62.7 million). Earnings per share were 20.78p (22.14p).

Inco earnings drop to \$4.5m

INCO, the Canadian nickel group, reports third quarter 1991 net earnings of US\$4.5 million (\$97 million). The results include \$18.8 million for voluntary early retirement programmes. Net earnings for the first nine months of 1991 total \$38.4 million (\$368.6 million). Lower profits on weak nickel markets and higher Canadian operating costs are blamed.

Gerrard starts market

GERRARD & National Holdings, the money broker, is launching the world's first forward market in electricity, allowing large-scale users and others to hedge against or trade in electricity prices. The market comes about after the privatisation of the power industry, which gave rise to the world's first full market in electricity, the pool.

GNI, G&N's specialist derivatives broker, will deal on an over-the-counter basis in Electricity Forward Agreements.

Unilever in Swiss deal

NATIONAL Starch and Chemical Company, a subsidiary of Unilever, has acquired the worldwide redispersible polymer powder business of Switzerland's Ebnother Holding on undisclosed terms. The group is used in wallpaper adhesives. Unilever said Ebnother is a leading world supplier with sales last year of more than \$35 million.

Allied London loses £4.76m

ALLIED London Properties has provided £10 million against its housebuilding division for the year to end-June. Net asset value was 123p (191p), and on a fully diluted basis net worth was 121p (166p). The group incurred a £4.76 million loss, against £6.1 million profit. The final dividend is held at 2.455p, making an unchanged 3.53p for the year.

Pressac falls 32%

PRE-TAX profits at Pressac Holdings, the Nottingham electronic components maker, fell 32 per cent to £1.8 million during the year to end-July.

Year-end gearing was reduced from 62 per cent to 13 per cent, due to a £5.7 million rights issue in June. Turnover rose 6 per cent to £34.47 million, of which 42 per cent was exported. The final dividend is held at 1.65p, making an unchanged 2.4p for the year. Earnings per share were 5.38p (9.25p).

The Blue Arrow trial

Ex-chief of County defends 'common practice' in rights

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE former chief executive of County NatWest agreed yesterday that it was common market practice for advisers to take part in a rights issue by buying part of the placing.

Under cross-examination by Anthony Hooper, QC, counsel for David Reed, a former County NatWest director, Jonathan Cohen agreed that advisers could take part in the issue and that there was nothing wrong with this if they did so before the issue closed.

In count 1(1) of the indictment, Mr Hooper said the prosecution was alleging that the market practice is for only genuine shareholders to take up the rights.

Earlier, an Old Bailey jury heard Mr Hooper ask Mr Cohen if the places in the rights issue had known that the advisers had taken a substantial holding. Mr Cohen said no, and agreed that he had understood from legal advice that they were not entitled to know.

People "at the highest levels" of the National West-

minster Bank had been aware that the places did not know, the witness agreed.

Mr Hooper said: "The places may well have thought that the advisers may not have had a substantial holding?"

Mr Cohen replied: "Yes."

He also agreed with Mr Hooper's suggestion that from the places' point of view, the placing may have been seen as a success.

Mr Hooper asked whether the effect of the legal advice given "was that there was no obligation to disabuse them of whatever they were thinking?"

Mr Cohen said: "That is right."

Mr Cohen, Mr Reed, Nicholas Wells, a former County director, Martin Gibbs and Christopher Stainforth, both former UBS Phillips & Drew directors, County NatWest, NatWest Investment Bank and UBS Phillips & Drew, all deny conspiring to mislead the markets over the result of Blue Arrow's record rights issue in 1987.

The trial continues today.

NYSE blacked out

TRADING on the New York Stock Exchange was halted for 24 minutes after a power failure blacked out electronic equipment (Philip Robinson writes). Officials had no immediate explanation for the failure, but the blackout is likely to once again raise the question of the electrical back-up systems which have al-

ready been seen as slow and inadequate. Power was out at 10.12am, less than an hour into the trading day, but resumed at 10.45am.

Trading in options and futures on the American Stock Exchange and the Chicago Futures Exchange was suspended until the NYSE restarted business.

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Bae rights are worth taking up

COMMENT

With just a few days left for shareholders to take up their offerings in the £432 million British Aerospace rights issue there is still everything to play for. BAE shares stubbornly refuse to soar beyond the 380p at which the new stock is being offered. This is hardly an encouraging background for private shareholders who have to decide whether to commit more resources to a company that has fallen deeply out of favour with leading professional investors.

There are three key issues that must be addressed. First, will the issue fail? Second, what is the likely extent of the fall if it does? Third, and most important, what is the long term potential for a holding picked up now at what is probably the company's darkest hour?

For days now, the share price has been telling us that the fund raising runs no risk of winning prizes as the most popular share sale of the year. The shock announcement of half-time profits sharply lower than expected and a dismal full-year forecast left too many questions unanswered. Most shareholders

felt that either internal reporting procedures were inadequate or that the company kept the City in the dark too long. The sad spectacle of a profits warning two days before the figures created the impression that BAE was not in control of events.

Rightly or wrongly, the City has had the head of Professor Sir Roland Smith, the former chairman, on a plate. His exit is not likely, however, to repair the damage sufficiently to make the issue a roaring success. Given the substantial interest in the United States, where the rights offer cannot be made for technical reasons, the best that BAE could hope for was a take-up of about 80 per cent. Even that is unlikely to be achieved. The share price action indicates that some sub-underwriters may have lightened their holdings on the judgment that they will, in any case, be required to take unwanted stock from other shareholders.

How far will the shares fall? On

a prospective yield of 8.8 per cent, there is a solid support for the new shares. They are not likely to dip much below 360p before high income funds recognise a bargain when they see one. Even this may be pessimistic if GEC translates its interest in protecting a sizeable customer into the purchase of a worthwhile trade investment by purchasing nil-paid rights shares for peanuts.

In the long run, BAE shares have a great deal of recovery potential. Rover will sooner or later see much more buoyant car markets. Arlington's malaise in broken property markets will not last for ever. Even the battered commercial aircraft division will see better times than the cessation of business which accompanied the Gulf War. Meanwhile Airbus is acknowledged as a winner and will unlock

value for its shareholders in the next year or two.

At a hefty discount to the average market rating and backed by assets of more than £7 per share, BAE shares are worth holding for all but the most short term of investors.

Efta accord

Since Britain's current love, the European Community, signed in 1984 the joint declaration on the concept of a "European economic space" with its old flame, the European Free Trade Association, the trade diplomats have been working towards the accord that was reached early yesterday. Formally agreeing to widen the single market to include the Nordic states, Switzerland and Austria

from 1993 is unlikely to cause serious upheavals in existing trade patterns in manufactured goods. Free trade has been operating for some time.

The question of third country access to the enlarged single market is more likely to be the source of some problems, as components freely entering the Efta countries' manufacturing chain from the Far East, and raw materials from the former Soviet bloc would have to be subjected to the same tariffs as those applied by Brussels. Such concerns may soon be overtaken by a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round on the liberalised world, not merely regional, trade. The European Community-Efta deal could be seen as a wise insurance policy against failure of more ambitious Gatt negotiations.

The Confederation of British Industry saw yesterday's accord on a European Economic area as a "positive and helpful" prece-

dent for the Gatt talks, which the industry lobby still regards as a top priority.

But the Confederation of British Industry also chose to issue a warning to the Community not to allow its tie-up with Efta to distract it from another top priority, completion of the EC's single market.

There is some concern about the creation of a form of "semi-detached" membership of the Community for the Efta economies, which would leave them without a role in the decision-making process. Such fears would appear unwarranted. Some Efta countries have already pegged their currencies to the ecu, proceeded with deregulation, and even applied for Community membership.

Britain's trade with Efta, the Community's leading trading partner, last year showed £6.88 billion deficit, broadly in line with the previous year. Although Britain has lost ground in the export race, primarily to the Germans, throughout the Efta zone, the new agreement could give the City of London a helpful fillip.

User-friendly Dixons aims to take the science out of its appliances

Gillian Bowditch
discovers a retailer working with the Japanese to make customers' lives more simple

THERE is a scene in Billy Crystal's new film, *City Slickers*, in which Mr Crystal's character, Midge, is attempting to explain to his friend, Phil, how to work the video tape recorder (VTR). After four hours, Phil has just about grasped the basic principles but is still confused about how to set the clock.

That is a scene with which it is all too easy to identify and no one is more painfully aware of this than Mark Souhami, managing director of Dixons Group, retailer of VTRs, hi-fi and gizmos with as many buttons and dials as the Japanese manufacturers can dream up.

Mr Souhami is in Japan this week to tell the manufacturers that many British customers are finding the products too difficult to install and use and the Dixons engineers are finding them too complicated to mend quickly and efficiently.

Mr Souhami says: "In 30 per cent of cases where our engineers are called out to a customer's home to mend a product there is no fault. The customer simply does not understand how to set up or use the appliance."

He points out that this is not the fault of the customer. Even the technically minded are baffled by badly written instruction booklets with pages of component lists to wade through before reaching scrawly drawn diagrams of how to set up the appliance.

A senior executive at Dixons recently spent six hours endeavouring to set up and install a colour television, VTR and television stand. His complaints ranged from the lack of a plug on a system costing £1,800 to the fact that the instruction booklets, some printed in Britain, some in Japan, contradicted each other.

In a letter to the manufacturer he writes: "I attach the



Monkeying about: the Dixons initiative aims to make video equipment so easy to set, even a chimp could use it

instructions for assembling the TV stand. Item one says 'push the castors firmly in location holes'. This took 2½ hours. The stand has been sprayed. As a result, the holes were smaller than the ends of the castors, so each hole had to be bored out first. Item five requires the video shelf to be placed so that the pins on the casting locate in the holes on the underside of the shelf. This is impossible as the pins and the holes are different distances apart."

While customers may have been grappling with these problems for years, a breakthrough has come in the past six months.

The heads of some of the Japanese manufacturers are taking notice and have started joint customer satisfaction projects with Dixons. Sony, Hitachi, Panasonic and Matsushita have started to respond to Dixons' call for simpler technology.

Panasonic has redesigned one of its VTRs to make it easier to use and repair. Circuit boards that had to be soldered out, now clip out and countless unnecessary screws have been done away with. The instruction booklet has been rewritten and a large, easy-to-follow diagram depicting how to connect the VTR to

the television appears as a separate pullout.

"When customers spend several hundred pounds on a new piece of equipment, the last thing they want to do is read an instruction booklet," says Mr Souhami. "They want to play with it straight away and they are quite right. Why should they have to wade through pages of instructions, badly translated from Japanese into English?"

Mr Souhami says most electronic goods are made with two main points in mind: ease of manufacture and number of features. Until now, user friendliness has not been a priority.

When Dixons gained access to the top management in Japan, the manufacturers responded enthusiastically. "Most of them had never installed a video or hi-fi so they didn't know how difficult it was," Mr Souhami says. "They simply sent to the factory for one of the workers to install the equipment in their homes." The Japanese groups have now appointed senior managers with special responsibility for customer satisfaction.

Of equal importance to Dixons is the internal simplification of the appliances. Mr Souhami says that engineers

spend 90 per cent of their time locating a fault and only 10 per cent fixing it. In future, he believes electronic equipment will have four or five diagnostic points built in, which will enable engineers to find faults quickly. Clip-in circuit boards will mean the repairing can be done in the customer's home.

"Seeing his TV in a squillion bits on his carpet does not inspire a customer's confidence," Mr Souhami says. "If the engineer then says the appliance must be removed to be fixed, customers are even more unhappy."

He adds that it is difficult to put a figure on what the customer satisfaction projects might mean to Dixons financially, but with the average cost of servicing a VTR at £28, the savings could be considerable. Eliminating the 30 per cent of unnecessary callouts would make a big difference.

In two years, Mr Souhami believes that few new products will leave Japanese factories without easy to follow instruction booklets or audio tapes, colour coding for cables and plug points and easily fixed circuit boards. Even packaging will be redesigned to make life easier for the consumer. Spending 45 minutes getting a television out of a box may soon be a thing of the past.

Ford and GM losses mount

LOSSES at Ford and General Motors total almost \$4 billion for the first nine months of this year, in what is shaping up to be one of the worst years on record for American car makers. Ford, hard hit by the recession in Britain, confirmed yesterday that it would also lose money in the three months to December and declined to forecast what sales might be next year.

General Motors and Ford, which account for about two in five of all cars sold in America, yesterday reported combined third quarter losses of \$1.674 billion.

Analysts say the figures are a bleak reminder that America still shows little sign of economic recovery. Chrysler, the third American car maker is also expected to show a loss when it reports next week. John Casasa, analyst with Wertheim Schroder, expects the big three car makers to lose a record \$5.75 billion by Christmas.

Ford, which owns Jaguar, the luxury car maker, is likely to have its worst loss for a decade and analysts predict it will have to cut the dividend again in January if car production falls significantly. Ford's

third-quarter factory sales dropped 30,000 to 1.278 million cars. In the first nine months of this year, Ford's American market share dropped 1.1 per cent to 20 per cent, but rose 0.6 per cent to 12.4 per cent in Europe, with record performances in France and Italy.

Harold Poling, the Ford chairman, said: "Because the pace of recovery from recession in many of Ford's key markets has been slow, Ford also expects to report a loss in the fourth quarter. We expect improved results when the economies recover."

Robert Stempel, the Gen-



Poling: markets slow

eral Motors chairman, whose worldwide output plunged more than 10 per cent to 1.582 million vehicles in the third quarter, said: "...improvement in US vehicle demand will depend on consumers not only retaining their confidence in the national recovery but also seeing genuine improvement in their own personal financial situation".

In the three months to end-September, Ford lost \$751.5 million (\$38 million loss), on sales of \$17.2 billion (\$18.9 billion). After adding back profits from its financial services company, Ford's total losses were cut to \$574 million (\$101 million profit). Its total nine month losses were \$1.78 billion on \$66.3 billion of sales and other revenue.

General Motors reported third quarter losses of \$1.1 billion (\$109 million profit). GM took a special net \$2.1 billion restructuring charge last year, which pushed it \$2.2 billion into the red. Running losses for the nine months of this year total \$2.47 billion against a loss of \$654 million.

Ford shares were unchanged at \$29 and General Motors firmed 50 cents to \$37.75.

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12,500	329.02	266.68	238.92	216.59

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Total Loan required £	
Amount included to pay off other loans £	
Tick for details of Payment Protection Insurance for yourself <input type="checkbox"/> and partner <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you: Employed? <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed? <input type="checkbox"/>	How long? Years
Gross Annual Income Self £ Partner £	
Address of property offered as security:	
Postcode	
Date property purchased	Price paid for property £
Estimated value £	
Mortgage amount outstanding 1st £ 2nd £	
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Lloyds Bowmaker

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Life goes on at the Pru

THE difficulties that Ulster Development officials have in persuading mainland businesses that the province is a great and economic place to relocate "back office" functions was illustrated yesterday. Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, was reopening after a £1 million refurbishment, the Prudential's divisional office in the centre of Belfast when, at 12.52 pm, it resounded to the sound of an explosion. Brooke continued without flinching. The explosion, a car bomb, was in the multi-storey car park barely 400 yards away, adjacent to the city's new Castlecourt shopping centre, a favourite target for the Provisional IRA. That

does not seem to concern the Pru unduly. The Belfast office houses its life claims department, transferred from Reading four years ago. The



"A pint of Skol-Tetley-Carlberg-Burton-Castlemaine please."

department handles 880,000 maturities, surrenders and death claims annually, with only 44 staff compared with Reading's 54 - a unit cost saving of about 20 per cent, according to Colin Blythe, Pru director.

A TELEVISION newscaster in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, announced: "Before the Commonwealth meeting in Zimbabwe, the Duck (sic) of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Eleventh (11) of Britain will visit... Welcome home, Your Majesty."

Rofe's runners

MICKEY Rofe, aged 37, a sales trader with UBS Phillips & Drew and, in the days when there was a stock market floor, a dealer for Grieson Grant, will be inflicting pain and suffering on two of his bosses on November 3. Sambo

Lewis, head of UK and European sales trading, and Dennis Elliott, head of equities marketing, and Elliott's wife, Liz, have agreed to run in the New York marathon to raise money for The Royal London Hospital Leukaemia Appeal, which funds research, supplements nurses pay and will cover the cost of a new leukaemia wing. Rofe's chosen cause is close to his heart as he was diagnosed as having leukaemia after being taken ill at a party last New Year's eve. As an indicator of Rofe's popularity, the first six names on the sponsorship list, all from P&D, have pledged a total of £3,000. "Almost every house in the City knows Mickey and we have already had tremendous support from a number of them," Elliott says.

CAROL LEONARD

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2	Albert Fisher	Foods	
3	Land Sec	Property	
4	AIM	Industrials A-D	
5	Life Sciences	Electronics	
6	RMC Gp	Building/Roads	
7	Marley	Building/Roads	
8	Raine Ind	Building/Roads	
9	HSCB	Bank/Discount	
10	Nardin & Peacock	Foods	
11	Savills	Property	
12	Morgan Che	Industrials L-R	
13	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
14	Boots	Industrials A-D	
15	CRT Gp	Textiles	
16	Oil Search	Oil/Gas	
17	McKeehan	Industrials L-R	
18	VSEL	Electronics	
19	Restek	Chemicals/Plas	
20	Grampian	Leisure	
21	Lon Int	Industrials L-R	
22	BAA	Transport	
23	Utd Baccus	Foods	
24	Swire Pacific A	Industrials S-Z	
25	Hepworth	Industrials E-K	
26	Ratners Group	Dispersal/Stores	
27	Boo (Henry)	Building/Roads	
28	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
29	Kenshaw (A)	Industrials E-K	
30	Channon	Newspapers/Pub	
31	Chemring	Industrials A-D	
32	BEP	Newspapers/Pub	
33	Nat Aust Bk	Bank/Discount	
34	Allied-Lyons	Breweries	
35	Campden	Leisure	
36	Atwoods	Building/Roads	
37	St Jves Gp	Paper/Print/Adv	
38	Telfos	Industrials S-Z	
39	Lough	Chemicals/Plas	
40	Worcester	Industrials S-Z	
41	Brent Walker	Leisure	
42	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares depressed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 14. Dealings end on Friday. Contango day October 28. Settlement day November 4.
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High	Low	Open	Close	%

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DRAPERY, STORES				
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INDUSTRIALS A-D				
High	Low	Open	Close	%

S-Z				
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High	Low	Open	Close	%

High	Low	Open	Close	%

INSURANCE				
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High	Low	Open	Close	%

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High	Low	Open	Close	%

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High	Low	Open	Close	%

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High	Low	Open	Close	%

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High	Low	Open	Close	%

High	Low	Open	Close	%

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High	Low	Open	Close	%

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High	Low	Open	Close	%

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WATER				
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Portfolio PLATINUM

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3	Land Sec	Property	
4	AIM	Industrials A-D	
5	Life Sciences	Electronics	
6	RMC Gp	Building/Roads	
7	Marley	Building/Roads	
8	Raine Ind	Building/Roads	
9	HSCB	Bank/Discount	
10	Nardin & Peacock	Foods	
11	Savills	Property	
12	Morgan Che	Industrials L-R	
13	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
14	Boots	Industrials A-D	
15	CRT Gp	Textiles	
16	Oil Search	Oil/Gas	
17	McKeehan	Industrials L-R	
18	VSEL	Electronics	
19	Restek	Chemicals/Plas	
20	Grampian	Leisure	
21	Lon Int	Industrials L-R	
22	BAA	Transport	
23	Utd Baccus	Foods	
24	Swire Pacific A	Industrials S-Z	
25	Hepworth	Industrials E-K	
26	Ratners Group	Dispersal/Stores	
27	Boo (Henry)	Building/Roads	
28	Close Bros	Bank/Discount	
29	Kenshaw (A)	Industrials E-K	
30	Channon	Newspapers/Pub	
31	Chemring	Industrials A-D	
32	BEP	Newspapers/Pub	
33	Nat Aust Bk	Bank/Discount	
34	Allied-Lyons	Breweries	
35	Campden	Leisure	
36	Atwoods	Building/Roads	
37	St Jves Gp	Paper/Print/Adv	
38	Telfos	Industrials S-Z	
39	Lough	Chemicals/Plas	
40	Worcester	Industrials S-Z	
41	Brent Walker	Leisure	
42	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
43	Grand Met	Breweries	

PROPERTY				
High	Low	Open	Close	%

SHOES, LEATHER				
High	Low	Open	Close	%

TEXTILES				
High	Low	Open	Close	%

TOBACCOS				
High	Low	Open	Close	%

TRANSPORT				
High	Low	Open	Close	%

WATER				
High	Low	Open	Close	%

WATER				
High	Low	Open	Close	%

© Ex dividend a Ex at b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed d Price at suspension e Dividend and yield exclude a special payment f Pre-emptive figures g Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free ... No significant data.

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was down at 90.3 (day's range 90.2-90.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Oct 22	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2696-3.2758	3.2722-3.2752	1-4p	1-4p
Brussels	56.58-56.92	56.75-56.92	9-14p	9-14p
Copenhagen	11.2257-11.2291	11.2281-11.2291	3p-4p	3p-4p
Dublin	1.0680-1.0685	1.0685-1.0675	9-14p	10-16p
Frankfurt	2.9027-2.9078	2.9044-2.9078	9-14p	9-14p
London	2.4613-2.4625	2.4632-2.4625	9-14p	9-14p
Madrid	182.77-183.86	182.82-184.74	27-45p	79-108p
Milan	217.0-217.50	217.02-217.45		
Moscow	1.9341-1.9343	1.9339-1.9343	0.41-0.37p	0.76-0.71p
New York	1.7105-1.7180	1.7150-1.7180	0.78-0.77p	1.21-0.20p
Oslo	11.3534-11.3541	11.3527-11.3542	14-17p	3p-24p
Paris	5.8265-5.8282	5.8191-5.8282	14-17p	3p-24p
Stockholm	10.5589-10.5912	10.5979-10.5912	par-13p	3p-14p
Tokyo	224.76-225.00	224.76-225.00	14-17p	3p-24p
Vienna	20.4131-20.4399	20.4306-20.4599	23p	4p-24p
Zurich	2.5373-2.5477	2.5373-2.5450	14-17p	14-17p

Source: Exel
Premium = pr. Discount = dk.

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10% Finance Hw 11%
Discount Market Loans Overnight 10% 10% 10% Week fixed: 10%
Treasury Bills (City)Buy 2 mth 10% 3 mth 9 1/2% Sale 2 mth 10% 3 mth 9 1/2%

	1 month	2 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Prime Bank Bills (City)	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%
Sterling Money Rates:	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%
Interbank:	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%
(Overnight open 10%, close 11%)					
Local Authority Deposit:	10%	n/a	10%	10%	10%
Sterling CDs:	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%
Debt CDs:	5.25-5.27	5.50-5.25	5.45-5.40	5.45-5.38	5.05-5.30
Building Society CDs:	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%	10% 10 1/2%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

	1 year	1 month	3 month	6 month	Call
Currency:					
Dollar:	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2
Deutschmark:	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2
Swiss Franc:	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2
Yen:	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2	5 1/4-5 1/2

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion Open \$382.85-383.25 Close: \$382.80-383.10 High: \$383.15-383.65
Low: \$382.30-382.80 Kuypermet: \$382.00-383.00 (221.75-211.75)
Sovereigns: Gold \$85.00-86.00 (P&S 50-50.50) New \$84.75-75.75 (P&S 20-20.75)

OTHER STERLING RATES

	1985/1-1985/5	Australia	1.2571-1.25
Australia austra:	2.1530-2.1587	Austria	11.39-11.31
Bahrain dollar:	0.001-0.0020	Belgium (Com)	1.125-1.12
Brazil cruzeiro:	12.825-1.029.8	Canada	1.125-1.12
Ceylon pound:	0.797-0.807	Denmark	6.8520-6.8525
Colombia peso:	87.4-87.4	Finland mark:	7.655-7.670
Greece drachma:	322.15-325.35	Germany	1.850-1.185
Hong Kong dollar:	13.2745-13.2845	Hong Kong	1.7507-1.7508
India rupee:	0.0-0.05	Italy	5.75-5.75
Kuwait dirr K.O.R:	0.4915-0.4925	Japan	7282-7282
Malaysia ringgit:	4.7058-4.7103	Netherlands	1.151-1.151
Malta guilder:	0.200-0.200	Norway	1.475-1.475
New Zealand dollar:	3.0350-3.0420	Sweden	1.8050-1.811
Saudi Arabia riyal:	5.236-5.247	Switzerland	4.80-4.80
Singapore dollar:	2.905-2.905	Thailand baht	1.994-1.994
S Africa rand (Rn):	5.3525-5.3570	Turkey Lira	1.875-1.875
S Africa rand (Gm):	4.5577-4.5577	U.S. Dollar	1.1700-1.1700
South Africa rand:	4.5577-4.5575	West Germany	1.4835-1.484

EGCQ: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance, Make-up date: Sept 30, 1981 Agreed rate Oct 25, 1981 to Nov 25, 1981 Scheme I: 11.70%. Schemes II & III: 11.64%. Reference rate Aug 30, 1981 to Sept 30, 1981 Scheme IV & V: 10.35%.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Settled	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Oct 21	2988.0	2988.0	2987.0	2992.4	4
Previous open interest: 26478	Mar 82	29.43	29.43	29.43	29.65	5
Three Month Sterling	Oct 21	98.84	98.87	98.81	98.83	29
Previous open interest: 148404	Mar 82	98.25	98.26	98.19	98.21	79
Three Month Eurodollar	Oct 21	98.44	98.44	98.44	98.44	1
Previous open interest: 22289	Mar 82	98.53	98.54	98.47	98.48	11
Three Month Euro DM	Oct 21	98.28	98.30	98.25	98.27	9
Previous open interest: 110076	Mar 82	98.05	98.09	98.04	98.05	8
US Treasury Bond	Oct 21	98.04	98.10	97.18	98.04	31
Previous open interest: 61818	Mar 82	98.04	98.04	97.98	98.04	2
Long Gilt	Oct 21	98.37	98.40	98.35	98.43	31
Previous open interest: 11124	Mar 82	98.20	98.20	98.15	98.20	1
Japanese Govt Bond	Oct 21	100.27	100.30	100.25	100.25	1
Previous open interest: 5785	Mar 82	100.30	100.30	100.20	100.28	1
German Govt Bond	Oct 21	85.85	85.98	85.72	85.81	20
Previous open interest: 19182	Mar 82	85.18	85.28	85.06	85.07	5
Three month ECU	Oct 21	98.15	98.15	98.15	98.15	1
Previous open interest: 6126	Mar 82	98.24	98.24	98.48	98.51	1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

Rediscovering the African adventure

The devaluation of the dollar has made Zimbabwe one of the cheapest tourist areas in the world, Jan Raath reports

Delegates to the Commonwealth summit which ended in Harare on Monday will never be allowed to forget their visit.

The 92 metres of plummeting white water at the Victoria Falls have been depicted in nearly every summit handout, brochure or guide. The image has been reinforced for most of the visitors by standing on the brink of the precipice overlooking the deluge, deafened by the roar and soaked to the skin by the mist thrown up by the force of 350,000 cubic metres of water a minute.

Without having to put its hand in its pocket, the Zimbabwean tourist industry has benefited hugely from this heavy international exposure. Last year the Zimbabwe Tourism Development Corporation (ZTDC) spent just US\$300,000 (£176,000) on marketing. The country's hotel chains, the tour operators and the national airline are all limited to the bare minimum of foreign advertising by measure of hard currency.

Yet the Zimbabwean tourist industry is burgeoning: from an all-time low of 276,000 visitors in 1983, there were nearly 600,000 last year, and tourist figures are expected to have risen another 15 per cent

by the end of this year. Tourism, once unrated in the Zimbabwean economy, is expected to be the second-biggest income-earner this year, after tobacco. The ZTDC estimates that by 1996 earnings from tourism will have increased to £270 million.

"Zimbabwe is considered a safe destination now," says Dr Robert Lanquar, a consultant seconded by the European Community to help breathe life into the country's tourist policy. The five-year insurgency in the western provinces of Matabeleland deterred many visitors. "Until 1988, people were saying: 'Don't go, there might be trouble'. But not any more."

"People are also fed up with Kenya and other wildlife destinations in Africa. They want a new place where wildlife management is competently run, where the country and guides are of quality."

South Africa, hitherto another strong tourist draw, is also feeling the effects of declining tourism because of its political turmoil, and the cautious are opting for Zimbabwe instead.

The lure is not just Victoria Falls and the wildlife. It is also the chance to experience Africa in a way that appeals to a more up-market, adventurous



Soaking up the atmosphere: the 92 metres of plummeting white water of the Victoria Falls in northern Zimbabwe

type of tourist, without the inconveniences often found in the rest of the continent, of corruption, absent infrastructure and real privation.

This year has seen a surge in the number of young backpackers and visitors attached to overland safaris from east Africa. They have discovered the Zimbabwe that lies be-

yond the luxury hotels and champagne dinners on the banks of the Zambezi. They show that it is possible to get almost anywhere in Zimbabwe using buses, and that

there is always local-style food, drink and accommodation available, which add to the enjoyment.

The devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar by about 55 per

cent this year has made Zimbabwe one of the cheapest tourist destinations in the world. Accommodation at tourist hotels is charged at a two-tier rate for foreigners and local residents, with the former paying about £60 for a night in a five-star hotel, but a good meal for two in a restaurant now costs less than £5, payable in Zimbabwe dollars.

The tourism now makes good money is evident to the local industry. Employment in tourism is predicted to grow by 30 per cent in the next three years. Last year, hotel occupancy reached a very comfortable 47 per cent, and it is expected to go well above 50 per cent for 1991.

Harare has one new hotel halfway completed, and another well advanced in planning. Meikle's, one of the country's best-known hotels, is adding five floors at a cost of £17 million. Victoria Falls has one new hotel, while the Elephant Hills, gutted by a rocket during the independence war, was open for business to the Commonwealth heads of government during the summit, as part of the first phase of its reconstruction.

The summit also brought a new radar system for Harare

international airport, a £5 million road for Victoria Falls, and the refurbishment of the Victoria Falls airport.

Government policy appears stuck in the starting blocks, however. "The real problem is to open the country up to tourists," Dr Lanquar says. "Local business can't do it on its own. It needs foreign investors. But there still isn't the incentive for them."

Limits on the remittance of profits by foreign-owned companies, and the web of bureaucracy that surrounds the setting up of foreign investment are problems. Zimbabwe's economic reform programme, scarcely six months old, promises to address both these constraints. But no one is likely to put a cent down until rhetoric becomes reality.

Another problem is the country's inaccessibility, with a bottleneck at the only port of entry from outside southern Africa, Harare airport. Only the airlines of the protectionist government's political allies are likely to get landing rights there, such as Egyptair, which is about to open a service to Harare while bigger and better-known European airlines are ignored.

The bush cleared of the myths

The biggest misconception about the Africa of a century ago, at the time when Henry Stanley and David Livingstone were discovering the source of the Nile, was that the land was teeming with wild animals, conjuring images in Victorian parlours like the illustrations in religious tracts, where lions lay cheek-by-jowl with asses.

This was all wrong (Jan Raath writes). The biographies of the explorers make it clear that if they wanted meat, it would be unlikely that a plump antelope would wander by conveniently displaying its shoulder for a heart shot. They had to search for it, and often did not find it.

The failure of much of African tourism results from the attempt to perpetuate the Victorian fallacy by

overstocking national parks in order to provide instant access to the spectacular. The ultra-rich big-game hunters know it, and they prefer to spend five days stalking through the bush, dehydrated, scratched, stung and driven berserk by mopane flies, just to be able to blow away a trophy animal.

Zimbabwe's 61 national parks, safari areas, recreation areas and botanical reserves, which cover five million hectares, were created for the patient, intelligent enthusiast.

With 116 species of mammals, 571 species of bird and an astonishing range of flora, from baobab to a palm species with the longest fronds in the

world, they provide a rare opportunity for long, intense scrutiny which will outlive the memory left by clicking cameras when zebra-striped minibuses form a *laager* around an embarrassed lion.

Some of the best situations have been discovered by international tourism, alas. The roads within a 25-mile radius of the main camp in Hwange national park are packed at dawn and dusk. Canoe trips down the Zambezi have become so numerous that hippo are beginning to become a hazard because of the frequency of human intrusion.

But few of the other parks have been "discovered" to the

same extent. At Gonarezhou ("place of the elephant") in the south-east lowveld visitors encounter perhaps one or two other vehicles during a day's drive through stark landscape.

At Pungwe Falls in the Eastern Highlands, where the mist clings to grassy rolling hills dotted with tree ferns, walkers are almost guaranteed isolation. Even in the busy parks, it is easy to escape the crowds.

Zimbabwe's parks offer an enormous variety. Only a few have "the big five" of lion, elephant, leopard, rhino and buffalo. Several are primarily fishing camps on large to medium-sized dams. Some are exclusively for hunting.

The accommodation offered ranges from the almost palatial at Mutirikwi national park, which has lodges and attendant servants for less than the equivalent of £10 a day, to camp-sites offering only a cleared area of ground and a "long-drop" latrine.

From the Mangrove Palm botanical reserve and the majesty of the Chimanimani mountains in the southeast, to the flat sands of Kazuma Pan and the underground rivers of Tuli in the west, the parks provide an intense experience of scores of different African ecosystems that is unreplicated in any other wildlife setting on the continent. They make the single-minded quest for the lion kill dull and vulgar.



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YACHTING

Confidence grows that British team can match the best

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN BERMDA

HAVING secured two match-race championship victories in as many weeks, Eddie Warden Owen and his British team go into the opening round of the world match race championship here today confident that they can beat the best in the world.

Winning the Omega Gold Cup here last week against all the top-seeded America's Cup skippers, including Chris Dickson, the world No. 1, his first-round opponent today, was a vital boost. "We are racing in the same boats over the same tricky waters in Hamilton Harbour, and that will be an advantage to us," Warden Owen said yesterday.

Neither the course nor the Hunter Legend 35.5 production cruiser/racers chosen for the series have won universal approval among the skippers. Rod Davis, who lost to Warden Owen in the finals of the Omega Cup, complained that the boats were too sluggish and conditions were like a "trap shoot". Warden Owen

admitted yesterday that the boats were difficult to sail. "They are just like Twelve Metres. You are always searching for speed. They have short wing keels which make them slow to tack and gybe, and they are also slow to accelerate, but we like them because of that."

Like his crew, the British skipper cut his match-racing teeth racing Twelve Metres during the 1986-7 America's Cup off Fremantle, Australia.

Hamilton Harbour provides a natural amphitheatre, but in light weather, like that for the Omega finals, unpredictable shifts and channels of wind funneling between the buildings and hills can turn the waters into something of a roulette wheel.

Warden Owen, who learned to race in Holyhead, feels "quite at home". Other skippers, however, are pressing for the Mazda-sponsored world championship to be moved into the Great Sound, where conditions would provide a

fairer test. Scott McLeod, one of the organisers, said yesterday: "We may do it for the final rounds if the winds are very light, but it will be almost impossible for spectators to watch the action."

Three noticeable absences are Peter Gilmour, the world champion, who is preparing his Australian America's Cup challenger, Rod Davis, who has similar responsibilities for New Zealand, and Dennis Conner, of the United States.

Conner, the three-times America's Cup winner, rarely competes in match race championships. According to Gold Cup officials, he demanded \$15,000 a day appearance money, plus a further \$50,000 to compete in the Omega event. This explains why Conner languishes fifth in the world rankings.

COMPETITORS' WORLD RANKINGS: C. Dickson (Japan), ranked 1; R. Davis (NZ); E. Warden Owen (GB); A. P. Lister (US); S. M. Johnson (Swi); J. J. B. B. (Den); S. T. Pappas (Fr); L. V. B. (Den); M. M. (Japan); M. B. (Fr).

ICE HOCKEY

Berkshire teams are last to lose records

DEFEATS at the weekend for the Berkshire clubs, Bracknell Bees and Slough Jets, mean that three weeks into the Heineken League season, no team in either division remains unbeaten. (Special Correspondent writes.)

On Saturday, Bracknell, whose latest Canadian recruit, Jim McGough, had not been registered in time to play, gave an impressive team performance to defeat the champions, Durham Wasps, 4-2. The team manager, Jamie Crapper, the coach, Todd Bidder, Matt Côté and Jim Pennycook were Bracknell's scorers. Ian Cooper and Mike Blaisdell replying for Durham.

The following night Bees trav-

elled to meet Cardiff Devils in an ill-tempered game in which the referee, Mick Curry, handed out 120 minutes in penalties, and from which the home team emerged victorious 8-4. Steve Moria led Cardiff with three goals.

Durham Wasps, inspired by three goals and three assists from Rick Brebant, who had been switched to the second forward line, regained their winning form with an 8-2 home victory over Murrayfield Racers. Swindon Wildcats took a two-point lead at the head of the first division with clear-cut victories, 9-5 at home to Milton Keynes Kings and 8-4 away to Slough Jets.

BRIDGE

Girls hope to make grade for England

THE pre-trials for the junior Camrose event raise the possibility of the first female representation at junior level for England (Albert Dorrer writes).

Four under-25 teams have been named to contest the final trials next month, for the home internationals. Two of the teams were chosen on past achievement, but two others are from pairs successful in the pre-trials. These include Frances Hinden, who is at Cambridge, and Catherine Holmes, of Kent.

RESULTS: 1. F. Hinden and M. Alderton, 150pts; 2. C. Holmes and S. Smith, 142.5; 3. J. Alderton and C. Jagger, 137.5; 4. S. Forrester and R. Allen, 132.5; 5. D. Baker and P. O'Brien, 131.



Hold tight: Rickey Dixon, of Cincinnati, runs back an interception against Buffalo

Saints still going strong

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE undefeated New Orleans Saints, off to the best start in their 25-year history in American football, won their seventh game by beating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 23-7. Morten Andersen kicked three field goals in the second quarter and Steve Walsh fired a touchdown pass.

The Saints, who have given up fewer than nine points a game, yielded a touchdown for the first time in four weeks. Walsh was filling in for the injured Bobby Hebert, who is expected to be ready to play against the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

On Monday night, the Buffalo Bills beat the Cincinnati Ben-

gals 35-16. The Bills have scored 245 points, the most in the league, in seven wins and one defeat. The Bengals have lost their seven games.

Steve Young connected on 18 of 20 passes as the San Francisco 49ers surprised the Detroit Lions 35-3. The Lions managed only 24 rushing yards as their five-game victory streak ended. In his latest two games, Young is 40-of-58 for 585 yards.

Jason Stauravsky kicked a 42-yard field goal on the last play of overtime to give the New England Patriots a 26-23 win over the Minnesota Vikings and avert the first tie in the National Football League in three seasons.

Sammy Smith, of the Miami Dolphins, fumbled as he was diving into the end zone, with three minutes to play, allowing the Houston Oilers to prevail 17-13 and notch their second away win in a row.

John Elway, of the Denver Broncos, fired a 71-yard pass to Mark Jackson to set up David Treadwell's fourth field goal, a 27-yarder, which beat the Kansas City Chiefs 19-16. Kansas City had won four in a row.

FOOTBALL: Week nine. Sunday: Chicago at New Orleans; Cincinnati at Houston; Dallas at Denver; at New England; Green Bay at Tampa Bay; LA Rams at Atlanta; Minnesota at Phoenix; Pittsburgh at Cleveland; San Diego at Seattle; San Francisco at Philadelphia; Washington at NY Giants. Monday: LA Raiders at Kansas City.

RACING

Salman feels the pressure in race for owners' title

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE race for the title of leading flat owner of 1991 is developing into one of the most dramatic photo-finishes of the season.

By the end of racing yesterday, just £7,000 in prize money separated Prince Fahd Salman, the owner of Generous, and Sheikh Mohammed. Until last Saturday, Prince Fahd held a commanding lead in the prize-money table thanks to his Derby winner and other group winners such as Diluz, Magic Ring and Always Friendly.

However, Tel Que's victory in the Dubai Champion Stakes at Meydan, worth more than £260,000 to Sheikh Mohammed, not only provided the Dubai owner with his first group one success in England this year, but also closed the gap with the Saudi prince.

With only three weeks of the flat season remaining, every race will count, especially those carrying big purses, such as the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury tomorrow, when Sheikh Mohammed will have the likely favourite in Lion Cavern, runner-up to Rodrigo De Triana in the Middle Park Stakes. He also has Opus Opera lined up for the St Simon Stakes on Saturday.

Prince Fahd currently has around 55 horses in training, compared with more than 300 owned by Sheikh Mohammed. It is remarkable that he has been able to keep ahead so long in the battle for owners' honours, although in the end he may come off second best because of Sheikh's numerical strength, especially as one of his leading

trainers, John Gosden, is enjoying a rich vein of form after a virus-hit summer.

Anthony Penfold, racing manager to Prince Fahd, said yesterday: "We are a bit like a grand prix car which has run out of petrol and is trying to coast over the line before it is caught."

Prince Fahd is unlikely to have again such a fine chance of winning the owners' title, given the superior weight of numbers enjoyed by the Maktoums. Anthony Stroud, racing manager to Sheikh Mohammed, was admitted yesterday that if his team is successful it will be down to sheer numbers of horses.

This has been Prince Fahd's year and he deserves the credit together with Paul Cole and Anthony Penfold. We are always trying to win. It is rather like running Liverpool Football Club. Last year there was still a hiccup and this year we still have to see how Kenny Dalglish feels sometimes, but I don't know if I want to go to Blackburn."

Sheikh Mohammed was leading owner for five successive years starting in 1985, but last year his brother, Hamdan Al-Maktoum, triumphed thanks to the success of Dayjur and Salisbil.

Hamdan, who is £200,000 behind in third, has indicated he intends to have more horses in training abroad next year, due to better prize-money. However, in an interview in the forthcoming edition of *Racing World*, he confirms he has no immediate intentions of reducing his string in Britain.

Owner	1st	2nd	3rd	Win prize-money
Fahd Salman	45	26	28	£984,825
Sheikh Mohammed	124	118	85	£977,158
Hamdan Al-Maktoum	86	62	64	£785,187
K Abdullah	68	41	23	£482,255
Maktoum Al-Maktoum	30	21	21	£442,733
R Sangster	49	33	30	£414,896

Cecil's filly impresses

MOUNT Helena, trained by Henry Cecil, made an impressive debut in the East Midland Maiden Stakes at Nottingham yesterday. With Steve Cauthen on duty for Sheikh Mohammed at Chesham, Willie Ryan took over on the 9-4 favourite. He allowed the runner-up, Bunty Boo, to make running until taking charge at the farlong marker.

Mount Helena, out of Irish Oaks winner Helen Street, looks to have a big future. "She could be anything," said Steve Cauthen, Cecil's assistant trainer. "She has been laid up with a few problems but this will have done her a lot of good."

Cecil and Ryan completed a double in the Wharton Manor Stakes with Alford, who beat Rajai by a short head.

Court of Appeal

Law Report October 23 1991

Chancery Division

Injury too remote from employer

Cook v Square D Ltd and Others
Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Farquharson
[Judgment October 16]

An employer in England who sent an employee to work as a computer consultant in Saudi Arabia was not to be held liable for an injury to the employee resulting from a fall on defective flooring at his workplace there.

Although circumstances might well require home-based employers to satisfy themselves as to the safety of foreign sites, it would not be reasonable to hold reliable employers in breach of their duty of care because of a hazard created by others some 8,000 miles away.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the employers, Square D Ltd, from Mr Simon Goldblatt, QC, who, sitting as a deputy High Court judge on April 6, 1990, had awarded damages to the employee, Mr Alan Peter Cook.

Mr Roderick Denyer, QC and Mr Christopher F. Shaw, for the employers; Mr Stephen Cobb for the employee.

LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that the employee was a field service engineer in electronics who frequently worked abroad. From January to March 1982 he was working for the employers, an English company, on a four-computer control system owned and operated by Aramco in Uthmaniyah.

On March 13, having almost completed his task, the employee injured his leg when he slipped into a small hole in the tiled floor of the control room. One tile in the specially constructed floor had been lifted to gain access to the wiring system in the space below.

There was no doubt that a hazard existed. The employee claimed that his employers were directly responsible to him for the injury he suffered.

The judge in finding the employers liable had failed to define the duty which the employers owed to the employee and therefore had not identified in what respect the employers were in breach of that duty.

Mr Denyer said that the judge's decision was not in line with *Wilson v Tyneside Cleaning Co* (1958) 2 QB 110 or the speech of Lord Denning in *Smith v Austin Lifts Ltd* (1959) 1 WLR 101, 117.

An employer, Mr Denyer said, had a duty, which could not be delegated, to take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of his employee. Consideration was to be given to all the circumstances including the place where the work was done; the experience of the employee; the nature of his work; the degree of control over him and his knowledge of the state of the premises.

There was no basis, he argued, for holding the employers, who were some 8,000 miles away, in breach of the duty of care in all the circumstances of the case. Mr Cobb relied on the decision of the House of Lords in *McDermid v Dredging & Reclamation Co Ltd* (1987) AC 906, 919 citing Lord Brandon of Oakbrook's statement: "... the employer owes to his employee a duty to exercise reasonable care to ensure that the system of work provided for him is a safe one ... it is no defence for the employer to show that he delegated his performance to a person, whether his servant or not his servant, whom he reasonably believed to be competent to perform it. Despite such delegation the employer is liable for the non-performance of the duty."

The facts of that case, Mr Cobb said, were closely similar. Finally he contended that a decision against the employee would reflect an abrogation of responsibility by an employer sending his employee to work abroad.

His Lordship said that both the judge and Mr Cobb cast too high a responsibility on the employers. The site occupiers and the general contractors were reliable companies and aware of their responsibility for the safety of workers on site.

The suggestion that the home-based employers had any responsibility for the daily events of a site in Saudi Arabia had an air of unreality. It might be that in some cases where a number of employees were going to work on a foreign site or where one or two employees were called on to work there for a considerable period of time, an employer might be required to inspect the site and satisfy himself that the occupiers were conscious of their obligations concerning the safety of people working there.

But one could not prescribe any rules in that context. It would depend on the facts of individual cases.

The evidence here did not show that the accident was caused by any breach of duty on the employers' part.

Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Mann agreed.

Solicitors: Hextall Erskine & Co for the employers; Bristol Pennings for Morrison & Masters, Swindon.

Smith (Inspector of Taxes) v Abbott
Same v Holt
Same v Scovell
Same v Shuttleworth
Same v Woodhouse
Before Mr Justice Warner
[Judgment October 18]

Sums reimbursed to certain employees of Associated Newspapers Ltd to cover their costs of purchasing newspapers and magazines were not assessable to Schedule E income tax. Because reading of other newspapers was an integral part of the journalists' work, expenditure on such publications was incurred wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of the duties of the employees of the newspaper.

Mr Justice Warner so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division in dismissing four appeals by the Crown from determinations by the City of London general commissioners in favour of Mr Kevin Holt, Mr Brian Scovell, Mr Terence Shuttleworth and Mr Gary Woodhouse that sums reimbursed to them for years from 1980-81 to 1985-86 were not assessable to the tax.

The Crown's appeal from a determination of the commissioners in favour of Mr Patrick Abbott, a news layout journalist for *Daily Mail*, was allowed, as it was not established that his expenditure on the publications was incurred in the performance of the duties of his employment.

Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Nicholas Warner, for the Crown; Mr Peter Whitteman, QC and Miss Marion Simmonds for the taxpayers.

MR JUSTICE WARNER said that in each case the taxpayer was employed by Associated Newspapers Ltd. Mr Holt was a staff photographer for the *Daily Mail*; Mr Scovell a sports reporter; Mr Shuttleworth a sub-editor and Mr Woodhouse was the picture editor of the *Mail* on Sunday.

Each taxpayer received an allowance in reimbursement of the cost of newspapers and periodicals which he bought. The question was whether the amount of the allowance was deductible from each taxpayer's emoluments as an expense under the provisions of section 139(1) of the 1970 Act.

It was notorious that that provision was rigid, narrow and to some extent unfair in its operation. In order to satisfy its requirements an employee had to show that he had incurred the expenses "in the performance of the duties of the office or employment".

That phrase was to be contrasted with the more generous phrase in section 130(a) of the Act relating to expenditure deductible under Schedule D. That expenditure needed only to

be "for the purposes of the trade, profession or vocation". Further, an employee had to show that the expenses he sought to deduct were expenses that he had been "necessarily obliged to incur" "wholly and exclusively" in the performance of his duties.

The commissioners accepted the taxpayers' evidence that the reading of the material in the newspapers bought by them was a necessary part of the duties of those employees, or inherent in the process of performing those duties and not merely required to qualify them or maintain their qualifications to do the work.

The Crown's main submission was that the expenditure had not been incurred "in the performance of the duties" of the taxpayers' respective employments but in preparation for the performance of those duties.

The purpose, Mr Moses said, of the taxpayers reading the newspapers was to equip themselves to perform those duties before they actually started performing them.

The Crown relied on *Simpson v Tate* (1925) 9 TC 314, *Humble v Brooks* (1962) 40 TC 500 and a sentence from Lord Salmon in *Taylor v Proven* (1975) AC 194, 226 that "in the performance of the duties" had to be given a strict interpretation and did not mean "in

order to enable the duties to be performed". Mr Whitteman accepted that to determine that issue it was necessary first to identify what the duties were. That, he submitted, was a question of fact for the commissioners and they had here found that the reading of the newspapers was an essential part of the taxpayers' duties.

Clearly and reading in the newspapers was an essential part of the taxpayers' duties. The reading of the newspapers was an essential part of the taxpayers' duties. The reading of the newspapers was an essential part of the taxpayers' duties.

On the other hand it was not the law that no reading that was preparatory to the performance of the duties of an employment could ever be part of the performance of the duties of that employment. There were manifestly cases where preparatory reading was part of such duties, for example in reading in preparation for advising a client.

The commissioners were aware of the distinction between reading to qualify oneself for one's duties and reading in the performance of those duties. They had found as a fact that in all the cases other than that of Mr Abbott the reading of newspapers and periodicals was part of, or inherent in the performance of the duties of their employment.

In Mr Abbott's case the commissioner found that his "reading was especially directed to graphic designs and presentation in order to assist him with ideas for layout".

That conveyed the impression that his reading was directed more to keeping up generally with the techniques and methods being used by other journalists doing the same kind of work than to the handling from day to day of the news then current; in other words his reading was, or better qualified, to perform his duties.

In distinction from the findings of fact by the commissioners in the cases of the other four taxpayers, the true and only reasonable conclusion from their findings in relation to Mr Abbott contradicted their determination.

Alternative submissions made by the Crown that the findings of fact were insufficient to justify the conclusion that the taxpayer's duties could not be accepted. Save in Mr Abbott's case the facts found by the commissioner bore no relation to the conclusions to which they arrived.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Berwin Leighton.

Newspaper allowance deductible

Considering leave to appeal

Regina v Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ex parte Khalifa
The Rule Committee should consider whether to introduce leave to appeal as a universal requirement in judicial review cases before appeals could be brought from the High Court to the Court of Appeal.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, so stated on October 17 when sitting with Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Leggatt, the Court of Appeal dismissed Mr Khalifa's appeal from Mr Justice Kennedy who had refused his application for judicial review of a decision of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office declining to intervene on his behalf in respect of claims he sought to pursue against the Government of Kenya.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that when leave to apply for judicial review was sought, no doubt because the facts were extremely sparse it was thought simpler to give leave rather than have a long inter partes investigation. When the facts emerged on the substantive application, it was clear that it was unarguable. However, there was an unfettered right of appeal to the Court of Appeal.

The law needed to be looked at again, so that hopeless appeals were not unleashed on the Court of Appeal. His Lordship suggested that the Rule Committee, particularly in the light of the powers available under section 7 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, should consider whether there should be a universal requirement of leave to appeal from the High Court to judicial review matters.

Natural use of land

Cambridge Water Company v Eastern Counties Leather plc
Same v Hetchings and Harding Ltd
The storage of organochlorines by firms involved in the tanning industry and based in an industrial village was a natural use of land for the purpose of the application of the rule in *Rylands v Fletcher* (1868) LR 3 HL 330.

liberal interpretation to the words "natural use" of the organochlorines as an adjunct to a manufacturing process created special risks for adjacent occupiers and whether the activity was for the general benefit of the community. The magnitude of the storage and the geographical area in which it took place had to be considered.

Sawston was properly described as an industrial village and the creation of employment opportunities for the benefit of that community. That storage in that place was, therefore, a natural use of land.

Mr Justice Ian Kennedy so held in the Queen's Bench Division on July 31 in rejecting claims arising from the pollution of a public water supply borehole at Sawston. Mill brought Cambridge Water Company Ltd against Eastern Counties Leather plc and Hetchings and Harding Ltd.

MR JUSTICE IAN KENNEDY said that the rigours of the rule in *Rylands v Fletcher* had been mitigated with the passing years by giving a more

could be seen up and down the country with drums stored in their yards. Inevitably that storage presented some hazards but in a manufacturing and outside a primitive and pastoral society such hazards were part of the life of every citizen.

